

For science to be effective and provide its benefits to people, some fundamental principles must be observed and defended—among them, the freedoms of open communication, collaboration, and diversity of perspectives, all of which are disrespected by such travel restrictions. Scientists and others see a variety of troubling signs surrounding science, such as the exclusion from meetings of scientists with certain profiles (e.g., individuals from any of countries specified in the ban), the unwarranted restrictions on communication by federal scientists with other scientists and the public, and most troubling, policy-making that is based on ideological assertion rather than on verifiable evidence. Public officials citing “alternative facts” leave scientists dismayed.

Taking action is the best course when science is threatened or when science can illuminate public issues. Scientists should not fool themselves with the misconception that politics is dirty compared to the scientific enterprise, and they should therefore avoid the fight. Nor should scientists think that by standing back and letting the facts speak for themselves, they allow reason to prevail and proponents of flawed policies to wilt.

Excerpt from the editorial “Act for Science” (2017) in *Science*, by Rush Holt

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#PoetsForScience

Instructions

Create an Emerge poem using the excerpt on the front of this card. Mark out words and phrases with a marker so that other expressions can *Emerge* from the author's original work. Share your work through social media and tag your poem with #PoetsForScience and #TravelingStanzas. Also consider sharing to #ScienceMarch. If you'd like, mail your poem to a friend or loved one by using a first class stamp. Through the collaborative efforts of The Wick Poetry Center and The March For Science we proudly stand together to advocate for the conservation of our environment and the importance of science through the intimate and inclusive voice of poetry.



The Poets For Science Collection

Curated by Jane Hirshfield

Visit Science.TravelingStanzas.com

Experience all of the #PoetsForScience Emerge poems in an online collection, read poems about nature and science, and download printable signs and posters for the march

Visit MarchForScience.com

Please visit the online home of the march to learn more and get involved

Rush Holt

CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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