

Episode 57DGD April 1 2025 Trump Science Policies Pose Long Term Risk

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evidence of harm to young people from extreme content online a Smartphone Free Childhood campaign is going viral [19 Headlines The New York Times April 1 2025](#) Main Content

1 United States Trump Administration Has Begun a War on Science Researchers Say Nearly 2000 scientists urged that Congress restore funding to federal agencies decimated by recent cuts [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) The New York Times March 31 2025 Some 1900 leading researchers accused the Trump administration in an open letter on Monday of conducting a wholesale assault on US science that could set back research by decades and that threatens the health and safety of Americans The signatories all of them elected members of the National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine warned of the damage being done by layoffs at health and science agencies and cuts and delays to funding that has historically supported research inside the government and across American universities For over 80 years wise investments by the US government have built up the research enterprise making it the envy of the world the letter said Astoundingly Trump is destabilizing this enterprise by gutting funding for research firing thousands of scientists removing public access to scientific data and pressuring researchers to alter or abandon their work on ideological grounds

Thumbnail of page 1 Read the Letter Researchers at academic institutions nationwide say that US science is being dismantled The letter said that many universities and research institutions had so far kept silent to avoid antagonizing the administration and jeopardizing their funding But it said the United States scientific enterprise is being decimated The signatories called on Americans to appeal to Congress to protect scientific funding With Musk efforts to cut spending and the Trump crackdown on institutions he sees as ideological enemies the administration has sought to dismantle parts of the federal scientific funding apparatus Funding from the National Institutes of Health which supports work by more than 300000 scientists across the country has fallen billions of dollars short of typical levels during the early months of Trump The White House has also moved to cancel research in specific areas like transgender health and climate science Trump announced last week that it was laying off 10000 employees at the Health and Human Services Department as part of a broad reorganization that reflected the priorities of the health secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr The department has hired a discredited vaccine skeptic to research a link long debunked by scientists between vaccines and autism On Friday the United States top vaccine regulator resigned citing misinformation and lies of Kennedy In recent weeks members of the National Academy of Medicine a nonprofit organization that provides independent health policy advice began discussing their concerns with members of the national academies of sciences and engineering Those conversations gave rise to the open letter said a male medical doctor who is an organizer of the letter who studies health policy at Virginia Commonwealth University The letter was drafted by a group of 13 scientists representing fields like medicine climate science sociology and economics I know what this is going to do to life expectancy in the United States to mortality rates to the mental health crisis we are having he said These changes in the research enterprise are going to translate into harms to everyday Americans He cited for example the planned restructuring of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality a small agency charged with protecting patient safety and guaranteeing Americans access to free preventive services like mammograms The agency responsible for protecting the quality of health care in the United States just got demolished he said The letter outlines the consequences of funding cuts including pauses on research studies faculty layoffs and reduced graduate student enrollments It also accuses the administration of engaging in censorship by among other things

blocking research on topics it finds objectionable such as climate change or that yields results it does not like on topics ranging from vaccine safety to economic trends

2 United States The Trump Science Policies Pose Long Term Risk Economists Warn Since World War II US research funding has led to discoveries that fueled economic gains Now cutbacks are seen as putting that legacy in jeopardy **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 31 2025 Ask economists which of the Trump policies they are most concerned about and many point to cuts to federal support for scientific research Trump in recent weeks has canceled or frozen billions of dollars in federal grants made to researchers through the National Institutes of Health and has moved to sharply curtail funding for academic medical centers and other institutions It has also through the initiative called the Department of Government Efficiency tried to fire hundreds of workers at the National Science Foundation an independent federal agency France and other countries have begun recruiting American scientists promising a more welcoming environment Economists across a broad ideological spectrum argue that investments in scientific research especially the kind of fundamental early stage research that is too risky to attract private investors are among the most efficient uses of taxpayer dollars Research has found that every dollar invested in research and development returns about \$5 in economic gains a figure that likely understates the true return because it does not account for benefits that are not captured in measures of gross domestic product like longer lives and increased leisure time It is like a machine you put a dollar in the machine and you get \$5 back said an economist at Northwestern University From a societal point of view it is an incredibly high return activity that we already do too little of

3 United States Nonfiction This Is Your Brain on Politics A new book by a neuroscientist explores the connections between brain biology and political beliefs **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 31 2025 *THE IDEOLOGICAL BRAIN The Radical Science of Flexible Thinking* The author has studied the connections between the brain biology and political ideology She began her experiments in the months between the Brexit referendum in Britain and the 2016 presidential election in the United States Using a method called the Wisconsin Card Sorting Test she tracked how her subjects responded to a sudden and arbitrary change in the rules She also surveyed research on the amygdala the almond shaped structure in each hemisphere of the brain that processes emotions especially negative ones like fear and disgust Conservatives she says often have larger amygdalae Yet figuring out which comes first whether people with bigger amygdalae are drawn to conservative ideologies or conservative ideologies make human amygdalae bigger is an ongoing endeavor The science in other words is not settled Indeed The Ideological Brain turns out to have surprisingly little that is definitive to say about the ideological brain The writer is an able guide through the thicket of scientific research but her book necessarily includes a few to be sure paragraphs conceding that some of the most tantalizing findings have not been replicated All of this sounds really nice I can see how we would be better off if every person on the planet was committed to intellectual humility and humanist sympathy But I am not sure that I needed a neuroscientist to tell me that

4 United States Crucial Week for Trump New Tariffs and Elections Will Test His Momentum Down ballot races in Florida and Wisconsin are seen as a referendum on the White House while the Trump to be

announced reciprocal tariff plan is increasingly worrying investors and consumers **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 31 2025 President The Trump political momentum will face a major test this week as Democrats try to turn various down ballot races into a referendum on the White House and Trump long promised tariffs risk rattling allies and consumers alike A State Supreme Court election in Wisconsin on Tuesday is seen as an indicator of support for Trump particularly after Elon Musk and groups he funds spent more than \$20 million to bolster the Trump preferred candidate White House officials have also been increasingly concerned with the unusually competitive race on Tuesday for a deep red House seat in Florida left vacant after Representative Michael Waltz stepped down to serve as the Trump national security adviser The White House is hoping victories in those races will tighten the Trump grip on the Republican Party as his team seeks to overcome the backlash from its inadvertent sharing of military plans on a commercial app with a journalist The Florida election is critical for Republicans who hold a narrow majority in the House as they try to pass the Trump agenda The outcome of the Wisconsin race in a battleground state that Trump narrowly won last year could be a reflection of the views of voters on the Trump gutting of the federal work force

5 United States No Toilet Paper and No Privacy Returning to the Office Federal Workers Walk Into Chaos Trump has described his new in office requirement as a way to ensure workers are doing their jobs He sees potentially leading more employees to quit as an added benefit **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 31 2025 Federal workers returning to offices have described logistical challenges cramped conditions and shortages of basic supplies For some federal employees returning to the office has meant an expansion of their duties to include cleaning toilets and taking out the trash For others it has been commuting to a federal building only to continue doing their work through videoconferencing Some showed up at the office just to be sent home Others showed up early and had nowhere to sit Some employees with the Federal Aviation Administration returned to an office where lead had been detected in the water And spending freezes have meant a shortage of toilet paper in some buildings Federal workers have been returning to offices in stages since Trump issued an order to do so right after being sworn in He has described the requirement as a way to ensure that workers are actually doing their jobs while believing that it could have the added benefit of leading more government employees to quit hey are also aware that they could be among the next group of laid off federal employees At the Department of Energy for some divisions agency leadership said employees must return to offices in the Washington area by May 5 even though some work thousands of miles away from there but near other departmental facilities For some that means making a decision to pick up and move without even knowing whether they will be part of the next round of layoffs

6 United States Is It Time to Trade My Rolex for a Smart Watch? When it comes to watches they can tell you more than just the time our critic says Find out what yours is saying whether it is smart or analog **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 31 2025 *All of my friends use smart watches I ca not believe that a centuries old tradition is being replaced by something that looks more like a computer In 2015 I was an early un adopter of the Apple watch I tried it and I did not like it Now most of my friends like yours wear a fitness band or a smartwatch or an Oura ring and

there is a lot of discussion of not just steps but also sleep patterns heart rates and blood oxygen levels
The important thing is that the time of day is the least of the matter

7 United States Drug Reduces Mysterious Particle Involved in Heart Attack Risk The Eli Lilly drug caused a major drop in the blood levels of Lpa but further research is needed to show that it will prevent heart attacks and strokes A 71 year old man had a heart attack despite low risk on most measures Doctors discovered he had a very high level of a tiny particle in his blood called Lpa **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 30 2025 As many as one in five people an estimated 64 million in the United States have elevated levels of a tiny particle in their blood It can greatly increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes But few know about it and almost no doctors test for it because there was not much to be done Diet does not help Neither does exercise There have been no drugs But in the near future that may change On Sunday cardiologists announced that an experimental drug made by Eli Lilly lepodisiran could lower levels of the particle Lpa by 94 percent with a single injection The effects lasted for six months and there were no significant side effects But it is not yet confirmed that reducing Lpa levels also reduces the risk of heart attacks and strokes That awaits large clinical trials that are now underway

8 United States What I Learned About The Trump Second Term by Reading His First 100 Executive Orders **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times April 1 2025 as a breakdown of The Trump fixations the orders are not a bad proxy The verbs in the Trump executive orders are telling Unleashing gives way to restoring whether of prosperity common sense or freedom of speech The death penalty a Trump preoccupation for decades also requires restoring as do names like Mount McKinley that honor American greatness Finally there is much protecting and defending in the Trump orders protecting citizens against immigrant invaders defending women against gender ideology protecting the priceless and profound gift of US citizenship from the children of illegal immigrants and defending religious liberty through a new White House Faith Office These verbs tell us how Trump sees the country Only an inhibited America would need unleashing only a neglected America would need restoring only a vulnerable America would need protecting No wonder that Trump has immediately declared several simultaneous national emergencies involving energy supplies the border criminal cartels and even the International Criminal Court And the man Trump blames for this deteriorated state of our union is Biden who in recent years subbed in for Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama as the Trump nemesis of choice Throughout his executive orders Trump trashes his immediate predecessor in the White House for pushing radical climate policies trampling free speech embedding DEI throughout the federal government limiting energy production encouraging an immigrant invasion commuting the sentences of death row inmates and above all deploying federal power against political enemies That last point is the subject of the Trump first executive order EO 14147 and it carries on where his campaign left off The American people have witnessed the previous administration engage in a systematic campaign against its perceived political opponents weaponizing the legal force of numerous federal law enforcement agencies and the intelligence community Such actions his order asserts were not about the legitimate pursuit of justice but about inflicting political pain The irony of this order titled Ending the Weaponization of the Federal Government is that in several subsequent orders Trump commands his own administration

to engage in such weaponization Trump repeatedly attacks major law firms that have worked with Democratic clients or that have ties to prior investigations against Trump suspending their security clearances and terminating any government contracts He also calls on the attorney general and the director of national intelligence to review or investigate various actions by the Biden administration which he accuses of behavior that is not just shortsighted but also illegal and immoral The offense of the former president as expressed in the orders is not just that he weaponized government against Trump it is that the failures of Biden undercut American greatness In many orders Trump first extols our United States virtues and riches and then chastises the Biden administration for diminishing and misusing them servants should interpret the laws they have sworn to uphold For those opposing the orders The short answer Do not bother The slightly longer answer The president and the attorney general subject to the supervision of the president and control shall provide authoritative interpretations of law for the executive branch and those interpretations are controlling on all federal workers the order states Consider the logic Because the Constitution empowers the president and the president faithfully executes the law the actions as chief executive of the president are necessarily lawful and his interpretations of the law say when he talks about running for a third term or when he attempts to unmake the 14th Amendment are necessarily correct And so a document that is held up as the greatest force for good the world has ever known is deployed to justify the personal preferences of one man And that is an order

9 United States Trump Administration Moves to Shutter Library Agency The staff of the independent Institute of Museum and Library Services the largest source of federal funding for museums and libraries were put on leave *The move came two weeks after President Trump issued an executive order naming the Institute of Museum and Library Services as one of seven that should be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) The New York Times March 31 2025 On March 20 Keith E Sonderling the deputy secretary of labor was sworn in as acting director replacing Cyndee Landrum a career library professional Shortly after being appointed Sonderling visited the agency with a team that included at least one staff member of the Department of Government Efficiency who set up offices and obtained access to agency computer systems On Monday afternoon after the team made several additional visits the 70 employees of the agency were informed by supervisors that they were being put on administrative leave for 90 days and were not permitted to access agency premises or systems

10 United States Why the Right Still Embraces Ivermectin Five years after the pandemic began interest in the anti parasitic drug is rising again as right wing influencers promote it and spread misinformation about it Ivermectin a drug proven to treat certain parasitic diseases exploded in popularity during the pandemic amid false claims that it could treat or prevent Covid 19 [RAWSEP View](#) Ivermectin use against COVID 19 has risks and no medical benefits [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) The New York Times March 31 2025 Joe Grinsteiner is a gregarious online personality who touts the anti parasitic drug ivermectin In a recent Facebook video he produced a tube of veterinary grade ivermectin paste the kind made for deworming horses He gave the tube a squeeze Then he licked a slug of the stuff and gulped Yum Grinsteiner said in the Feb 25 video one of a number of ivermectin related posts he has

made that have drawn millions of views on Facebook this year Actually that tastes like dead cancer Ivermectin a drug proven to treat certain parasitic diseases exploded in popularity during the pandemic amid false claims that it could treat**or prevent Covid 19 Now despite a persistent message from federal health officials that its medical benefits are limited interest in ivermectin is rising again particularly among American conservatives who are seeing it promoted by right wing influencers The Facts About Ivermectin Recent claims promoting the drug are alarming doctors Robert F Kennedy Jr has in the past embraced the idea that ivermectin can treat Covid but whether he might seek to integrate the drug into his Make America Healthy Again agenda remains unclear Doctor Califf the former FDA commissioner sees it differently All interventions have risks he said And if you have no benefit and you have some risk then why on earth you know there is no rational reason why someone should take the intervention

11 California In Southern California a Sea Mammal Crisis Washes Ashore In recent weeks hundreds of sea lions dolphins and other animals have turned up in the sand dead or seriously ill alarming rescuers and beachgoers alike [RAWSEP View](#) The cause is domoic acid [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) The New York Times March 31 2025 A man who works for a sea mammal rescue group rushed to help save the animals and transport them to get treated Both sea lions were given ID numbers which told a story They were tagged as 25 193 and 25 195 the 193rd and 195th patients of the group for the year All along the Southern California coastline from San Diego to Santa Barbara hundreds of animals sea lions dolphins seabirds are washing up on the sand either dead or seriously ill The cause is a neurotoxin produced by an algae bloom The toxin known as domoic acid is harmless to fish but can be deadly to sea mammals Fish carry the toxin but if mammals and birds eat the fish the toxin can poison them causing seizures making them behave erratically or putting them in a coma The only treatment is to flush out the toxin and medicate the symptoms Coastal researchers and officials say it is become a marine life crisis that has overwhelmed rescue organizations distressed beachgoers and hurt the ocean habitat of California Algal blooms are not rare in California but the amount of toxic acid the blooms have been releasing and the scale of harm they have been causing to sea life have puzzled scientists Some say it has to do with climate change and warming sea temperatures Others say the nutrients in the runoff from land can stimulate algae blooms Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are studying whether the washed out ash and debris from the Los Angeles wildfires in January may have influenced the current bloom More research is needed to understand the changing blooms is largely funded by NOAA and has come under threat The Sea lions have a 60 percent chance of survival from the toxin At the rescue center veterinarians examined both animals Both sea lions have a good chance of surviving Throughout the weekend they were stable and resting Eventually they gained some identity too They were 25 193 and 25 195 no more Now they are Carlin and Kelley

12 New Jersey Cory Booker Slams the Trump Policies in Marathon Senate Floor Speech The New Jersey senator criticized the Trump plans for Social Security education and health care saying the nation is in crisis He was still speaking in the predawn hours [RAWSEP View](#) RAWSEP appreciates Senator Booker defending Social Security [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) The New York Times April 1 2025 Senator Cory Booker spoke in an all night session on the Senate floor early Tuesday in an effort to seize the national spotlight and criticize the Trump policies on health care Social Security

education and much else Booker Democrat of New Jersey began speaking on Monday evening and said he planned to continue for as long as he was physically able He was still going as of 5 am Eastern time The speech focused in part on what Senator Booker said were Trump plans to cut funding for Medicaid among other programs The White House has denied that it plans to cut Medicaid benefits but the president and his allies have attacked Medicaid Medicare and **Social Security** over what they claim is waste fraud and abuse I rise with the intention of disrupting the normal business of the United States Senate for as long as I am physically able Senator Booker said near the start of his speech I rise tonight because I believe sincerely that our nation is in crisis stopped speaking to allow questions from fellow Democrats including Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut without formally relinquishing the floor His speech was not a filibuster because it did not come during a debate over a specific bill or nominee But it could still disrupt official business if it continues past noon when the Senate is scheduled to convene Before his speech Senator Booker said on social media that he was heading to the Senate floor because Trump and Musk had shown what he called a complete disregard for the rule of law **These are not normal times in America** Senator Booker said the Musk feed on X his social media platform was active late into the night but it made no mention of Senator Booker or his all night speech Neither did the Trump Truth Social feed Viewers followed along on **the official Youtube Channel of Senator Booker** With dawn about an hour away Senator Booker a onetime presidential candidate looked full of energy as he read from papers on his lectern in a booming voice But the length of his session at 10 hours and counting was not close to making Senate history

13 New York New Columbia President Attacked by Stefanik Over 2023 Text Message Elise Stefanik a prominent Republican questioned the Claire Shipman commitment to protecting Jewish students **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 31 2025 Claire Shipman is only days into her job as acting president of Columbia University but is already being targeted by a prominent House Republican who questions her commitment to fighting antisemitism on campus Ms Shipman in a private text message in December 2023 to Nemat Shafik who was then president of Columbia referred to congressional hearings into campus antisemitism as capital hill nonsense according to a transcript of the exchange released by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce as part of an investigative report last year The comment is coming back to haunt Ms Shipman Representative Elise Stefanik who is remaining in the House after Trump withdrew her nomination to be US ambassador to the United Nations seized on the remark during a television interview Sunday predicting that Ms Shipman will not last long in her new position move our community forward she wrote My request right now is that we all students faculty staff and everyone in this remarkable place come together and work to protect and support this invaluable repository of knowledge this home to the next generation of intellectual explorers and this place of great and continuing promise Ms Shipman wrote

14 Texas Johnson & Johnson Loses in Court Again in Bid to Settle Talc Cases A judge dismissed an attempt to use a bankruptcy court to resolve tens of thousands of claims that the company talcum powder products caused cancer **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times March 31 2025 A federal bankruptcy judge in Houston on Monday rejected the Johnson & Johnson request to approve a \$9 billion settlement with tens of thousands of people who are suing the company over claims

that its talcum powder products caused cancer The proposal would have resolved nearly all current and future claims that the company talc products contained asbestos and caused cancer

15 Texas Houston Astronauts Emphasize Gratitude as NASA Contends With Uncertainty Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore spoke in their first news conference since returning to Earth two weeks ago from an unexpectedly long ISS stay that lasted more than nine months NASA Astronauts Say They Would Fly on the Boeing Starliner Again Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams were brought back to Earth in a SpaceX capsule after problems with the Boeing Starliner delayed their return by about nine months We are going to rectify all issues that we encountered We are going to fix them We are going to make it work Boeing is completely committed NASA is completely committed And with that I would get on in a heartbeat Yeah I would agree The spacecraft is really capable There were a couple of things that need to be fixed like Butch mentioned and folks are actively working on that But it is a great spacecraft and it has a lot of capability that other spacecraft do not have And to see that thing successful and to be part of that program is an honor Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times March 31 2025 After a stay aboard the International Space Station that unexpectedly stretched to nine and a half months the NASA astronaut Suni Williams is back to doing something she enjoys on Earth I actually went out and ran three miles yesterday Ms Williams who returned to Earth two weeks ago said on Monday during a news conference at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston So I will give myself a little pat on the back Ms Williams and her fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore repeatedly expressed gratitude Suni Williams thanked the two astronauts who had shared the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule that gave them a ride back to Earth She thanked NASA She thanked SpaceX She thanked Boeing She thanked the medical team that helped them get accustomed to gravity again Those words of gratitude may have been appreciated by people at the space agency who like many federal workers are uncertain about their mission their direction or even their continued employment since the Trump inauguration

16 Texas Midland and Measles Guest Essay I Vaccinated My Children But Here is Why My Neighbors Do not RAWSEP View A person who did not go into lockdown at the beginning did not wear a mask in public and did not take a vaccine when that medical miracle was offered to you are more than stupid you deliberately and in the minds of many people maliciously put the public which are real individual people at risk of death It is a luxury usually afforded to the rich living in a bubble to ask those affected by stupid actions caused by stupid views to refrain from pointing out that the unscientific views of those taking stupid actions are also stupid and unscientific and inhumane views whether they live in Midland Texas or Washington DC Survivors of the COVID Pandemic should examine their own actions during the pandemic so that they will not take those stupid actions again and will not again threaten the lives or end the lives of those around them simply because they have silenced those around them from pointing out that their actions are stupid because being called stupid hurts their feelings the feelings of people who did not obey lockdowns did not wear masks in public and did not take miraculous vaccines that were offered to them Elon Musk recently showed during a Televised Interview that it hurt his feelings when called unfeeling or even stupid when he fired thousands of Federal Workers unnecessarily and to the detriment of many government functions including scientific and medical research leading to future vaccines that will without a doubt save lives if those vaccines are taken and if masks are worn in the presence of airborne diseases Sparing the feelings of Elon Musk and sparing the feelings of people who

do not get vaccinated during a pandemic and those that do not wear masks during a pandemic is counterproductive to saving the lives of other people who are innocent of risking the lives of other innocent people. Guilt is not a fun emotion but in this case the Midland Texas mother or her neighbor who does not take vaccines or wear a mask or even does not obey lockdown instructions during a public health emergency should feel guilt and not feel vindicated because she has survived when others have died and time has passed since the pandemic and maybe people have forgotten that she should be feeling some guilt and she should learn from her own mistakes in not following medical instructions that caused her business to close although she did get a check from the government along with everyone else from on high from medical authorities who knew imperfectly then and know better now how to protect the public and save lives. The important thing to bring out of the pandemic is that masks were effective and vaccines saved lives. Saving lives through scientific methods is what matters. Hurt feelings about the level of intelligence you exhibited is your personal guilt inconveniently telling you to pay attention to medical authorities next time not a signal to destroy science because it made you feel dumb. That would be following in lockstep the thinking of Trump a little too closely. Studying the psychology of Trump and the psychology of a Midland Texas mother will make the Midland Texas mother feel vindicated and make her forget her guilt in not following Public Health advice from medical authorities from on high but now brought low by mass firings. But to onlookers it just makes her look dumb and no one wants that but if the shoe fits wear it. Derision did not kill you and if seniors in nursing homes survived they reaped the benefits of lockdowns even if they had to talk on telephones and use Zoom to communicate with relatives. If your children could not learn using the latest technology perhaps they were not brought up right and if they were lonely at home perhaps your motherly skills at home schooling revealed that you yourself were not well educated even when attending school in person in your youth. Public school should not be babysitting for parents who are not there for their children. If you were in lockdown together you the parent are largely responsible for the mental health of the children you shared a home with during the pandemic. Live and learn. For the people who were harmed from your not going into lockdown not wearing a mask and not taking a vaccine many of them are voiceless now because they are dead from COVID 19 from your contribution to spreading the disease when it could have been contained by your following medical advice from on high as you call it. If you studied biology biochemistry or even studied medicine you would not have needed to be advised you would know the reasons for this medical advice. If your child studied scientific and medical subjects while on lockdown or even if the senior citizens you know studied scientific and medical subjects while on lockdown in a nursing home those people would emerge from lockdown knowing that if they took these steps they would be protecting themselves and others and they would realize that in a public health emergency we are all in this together and we should humanely protect our fellow men. Politicization on the right not derision from left is the reason that more people died from COVID 19 than necessary. Choosing not to follow medical advice because of embarrassment when your wrongdoing became evident and doubling down on what you were doing wrong is not the sign of mature judgement that a mother of children should exhibit. Derision from your own children probably also followed and has dogged you for years. How embarrassing to be a stupid parent and to endanger your children and have them know it. How rewarding to your inflated self image to bring down medicine and science with government defunding. How delusional to feel sad about your mistakes being pointed out rather than facing reality and resolving never to make those same mistakes again. What you label as derision from the left was probably Black Humor in the face of death. Some

attentions to your action by the left must have started with Why would someone not take steps to save their own lives and the lives of others? What economic reason for keeping a business open instead of going into lockdown during a pandemic with no vaccine is greater than the need to save your life and the lives of those around you? What reason is behind visiting people in nursing homes during a pandemic when there is no vaccine when the risks of those people in nursing homes dying is therefore high? Do parents not know that sending their children to school during a pandemic when there is no vaccine risks the children bringing COVID 19 home? At some point the people who are not going into lockdown at the beginning are not wearing masks in public and are not taking the miraculous vaccine when it become available become Black Humor laughingstocks or if the bystanders laughing are facing sober reality become monstrous selfish short sighted and all those other words that bring embarrassment to a mother from Midland Texas unfortunately but perhaps fortunately if that recognition of wrongdoing overwhelms the political pressure to do the wrong thing in Midland Texas for political expedience that harms herself and her children and her elderly relatives first It is mean to deliberately take actions that lead to other people dying when you know better or are helpfully told better by medical authorities? Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization

The New York Times March 31 2025 This spring in West Texas it is as if the seasonal winds blew us back in time We are catching national attention for calamities that seem straight out of the 1930s grim dust storms and a measles outbreak which started about 65 miles from my home in Midland Sometimes on social media local moms share dark jokes Was not expecting to be living like a Depression era American Girl doll in 2025 Like those moms I have been caught off guard by much that is unfolded over the past decade If you had told me in 2011 when my oldest daughter was born that driving a Tesla and being a crunchy granola mom would become right coded by her 14th birthday I would have laughed And if you had told me the mom who always listened to her pediatrician that I would grow more skeptical of the advice offered by public health authorities over the next decade I would have thought you had the wrong person But a lot has changed Many Americans have lost trust in public health agencies and the advice they offer especially in more conservative parts of the country like mine That declining trust is showing up in personal choices In 2018 some 46000 Texans requested vaccine exemption forms from the Texas Department of State Health Services In 2024 more than 93000 did If I had to do it all over again I would still follow the advice of my pediatrician and vaccinate my children But in the years since Covid I increasingly understand the thought process of my neighbors who do not There is a tendency to assume the worst about people who do not trust the advice of the public health authorities about vaccines At best they are dismissed as backward and stupid at worst selfish and unempathetic I feel the pull to dismiss some people as all those things such as the pastor in Fort Worth who bragged that the school at his church had the lowest measles vaccination rate in Texas The herd is getting smaller Cases of measles across the United States suggest the herd is breaking down There are many sensible not science denying moderate or slightly right of center American parents like me who see immense value in having a national public health authority and yet no longer trust it We question whether health agencies are nonpartisan value neutral science driven and financially independent of Big Pharma While the spark of this distrust was glowing before 2020 the Covid 19 pandemic threw gasoline on the fire In March 2020 I went into lockdown Within a few months we were attending in person birthday parties again and resumed worship at our churches much to the derision of huge swaths of our country our small businesses were crushed older people experienced inhumane social isolation and died alone in nursing

homes and children struggled through online school. By late spring 2020 we had discovered one of the few mercies of Covid: Children were not commonly succumbing to the disease. I started publicly calling for them to return to school in person that summer. Outside of my local community where most people seemed to agree with me, the backlash was swift and cruel. Like many other dissenters, I was accused of denying science and lacking concern for humanity. Authorities I would trust to tell me when to vaccinate my children for measles and polio also said a cheap cloth mask from Old Navy could help protect them from microscopic pathogens. It made no sense yet expressing doubts about following the science was treated as sacrilegious.

RAWSEP View The mistake this writer from Midland Texas makes is equating religious edicts with science based advice. The medical authorities who are authorities because they have studied science and medicine advised lockdowns, masks, and vaccines because through research it was found that these methods of Covid 19 control saved lives, and these medical authorities are not giving this advice because they were following in lockstep with religious ideas that had no application to real life on Earth. We can all agree that religious ideas are not based on science but based on faith, and religious ideas do not come from practical scientific facts, although hopefully religious ideas such as ideas that promote cleanliness and scientific ideas may coincide occasionally and provide a measure of safety inadvertently. It was a pandemic and information evolved over time. Mistakes were unavoidable. American leaders wanted children to resume their normal lives only if they were vaccinated, but some European countries focused only on vaccinating children in high risk households or those who had major underlying medical issues, and some countries seemed to take seriously potential risks. This approach took into account the lower likelihood for children for bad outcomes from the virus. Trump has never been a leader to exemplify humility and respect. But he has elevated some experts who could rebuild public trust given their appeal to many skeptics for their willingness to bear personal consequences to defend the right to dissent, such as the new leader of the National Institutes of Health and the new commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

RAWSEP View Both these newly appointed leaders at NIH and the FDA are vaccine skeptics themselves and put our country at greater risk from pandemics because of their unfounded and debunked vaccine skepticism. **RAWSEP believes** the reflective opportunity we have is not to reflect on how to coax or bribe people to take vaccines. **RAWSEP believes** the reflective opportunity is the opportunity for individuals like this Midland Texas mother to reflect on their past bad and wrong behavior during COVID 19 pandemic and upon reflection resolve to do the best and right thing and get a vaccine during this Measles epidemic and even do the right thing and urge others to get the Measles vaccine. The writer of this article is no good example by her own description in this article, but since she sees the Covid 19 epidemic as in the past, she absolves herself of all blame for spreading Covid 19, which she surely did by calling for ending lockdowns before the health authorities did. If there is reflection, it should be for her to change and be a better person now and not a disease spreading bully, and in the future change her own actions.

From the article: The measles outbreak in West Texas is tragic, but it provides the sort of reflective opportunity our country needs. Because next time it might not be the measles, a disease that thankfully most Americans are vaccinated against, we might instead face a novel virus with devastating consequences for our children.

RAWSEP View Having newly appointed health authorities who are vaccine skeptics is a step backward toward policies that may please people who refuse measles vaccines in Midland Texas, but who put Public Health in peril and lead to many people dying unnecessarily from Measles and any other epidemic that may strike the United States in the future. This Trump feel good policy of employing vaccine skeptics at

the highest levels may make people who meet their maker early and happily during a Measles of a future Covid 19 pandemic feel good but the rest of us who would like to live a normal lifespan may be reduced to derision of those very vaccine skeptics who could most accurately be described as disease spreading bullies but are described in this article as suffering the most of anyone as embarrassed victims of left wing ridicule The editor of RAWSEP has not poked fun at any people who have died of Measles in 2025 I promise you and actually does not think any people who refuse Measles vaccines for themselves or their children in 2025 is a figure of fun Just as people who protest Musk actions in 2025 are not the ones setting Teslas on fire our left wing hands are clean which cannot be said for right wing disease spreading bullies who act so irrationally that they must be explained by money grubbing like Musk himself

17 Wisconsin Today Big Elections in Wisconsin and Florida Voters in a crucial court race and two House special elections will provide hints of how the country views Trump and Musk months after they took power **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times April 1 2025 Two states nearly a thousand miles apart will on Tuesday provide the best evidence yet of whether Trump and his Republican allies maintain robust support or whether they face a growing backlash led by a re energized Democratic Party In Wisconsin a nearly \$100 million race for control of the State Supreme Court has morphed from an important clash over the Wisconsin direction into a referendum on the Musk supersized role in national politics In Florida one of two special elections for deep red House seats suddenly seems too close for comfort for Republicans Democrats while still expecting to lose are watching the margins closely for signs that their party is ascendant This is all happening while Musk stands to benefit financially from the candidates he has thrown his money and influence behind Tesla the electric vehicle company Musk controls has a case against Wisconsin pending in the Wisconsin courts and Trump has gone out of his way to promote the products of the billionaire from the White House Defeat for conservatives of course would hardly mean that Musk would stop spending on elections But it would prove to Democrats that he is beatable with enough money and base energy Still while Democrats may see Musk as a figure who fires up their base and supercharges liberal fund raising that is a lot easier for them to do when Wisconsin is the marquee race in the country and a focus of national attention If Musk were bankrolling dozens of Trump allied candidates for governor Senate and Congress across the country next year it could be a far more difficult proposition to match his financial might with the same degree of grass roots enthusiasm when national attention is more diffuse

18 United Kingdom Suffolk The UK Government Would not Ban Phones in Schools These Parents Stepped Up In Britain amid growing evidence of harm to young people from extreme content online a Smartphone Free Childhood campaign is going viral **RAWSEP View** There are parental controls that can be put on smart phones **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times April 1 2025 The idea of getting her eldest child a smartphone had long felt inevitable said a Suffolk woman But by early last year when her daughter was 8 years old it filled her with dread When she talked to other parents everyone universally said Yes it is a nightmare but you have got no choice recalled the 41 year old Suffolk woman She decided to test that A friend had shared her concerns about the addictive qualities of smartphones and the impact of social media on mental health so they created a WhatsApp group to strategize Then the woman who lives in rural Suffolk in the east of England posted her thoughts on

Instagram What if we could switch the social norm so that in our school our town our country it was an odd choice to make to give your child a smartphone at 11 she wrote What if we could hold off until they are 14 or 16? Colindale is in the borough of Barnet which in February announced plans to become the first borough in Britain to ban smartphones in all its public schools The initiative will affect some 63000 children Eton one of the most elite private schools in Britain announced last year that new students would be banned from bringing smartphones and would instead be issued with Nokia handsets that can only text and make calls In Suffolk the founders of the Smartphone Free Childhood initiative are aware that their success in attracting parents to their cause is partly thanks to social media and messaging apps on which they have spread the word There are loads of positive things about this technology a spokesman said We are not trying to say that technology is bad just that we need to have a conversation as a society about when it is appropriate for children to have unrestricted access to this stuff

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