

Subject: RELEASE :: Center for Inquiry Michigan Sponsors March for Science; Joins Fight Against Science Denial

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Beahan, Program Director  
Center for Inquiry–Michigan  
(616) 706-2029, [jbeahan@centerforinquiry.net](mailto:jbeahan@centerforinquiry.net)

## **Center for Inquiry Michigan Sponsors the March For Science in Lansing, Joining the Fight Against Science Denial**

LANSING, MI – Center for Inquiry (CFI) Michigan is proud to announce that they are an official sponsor of the March for Science in Lansing on Saturday, April 22nd. Jennifer Beahan, Program Director of CFI Michigan, will be a featured speaker at the Lansing March, and CFI members will be attending the march in Lansing, as well as several satellite marches throughout the state.

“We are sponsoring the march because science is a core aspect of our mission. It is vital that we speak out against efforts by the current administration and Congress to deny facts and reject reason on crucial issues such as climate change, vaccinations, reproductive rights, and fake medicine,” says Jennifer Beahan. “When our leaders choose to reject science and embrace superstition, pseudoscience, and conspiracy theories, they are endangering the lives of their own citizens and putting our planet at risk.”

The Center for Inquiry is a leading advocate for reason and science who encourages everyone to march in support of scientific research and evidence-based public policies. CFI will also have a presence at the flagship march in Washington D.C. and at numerous marches around the country.

“Science has always been under relentless assault from those who find its conclusions inconvenient, leading us into darkness for reasons of greed and power, superstition and dogma, or magical thinking,” said Robyn Blumner, president and CEO of Center for Inquiry. “That’s why we have to be steadfast in our defense of science, reason, and evidence -- the values of the Enlightenment that continue to lead humanity out of the darkness and into the light. This is why we march.”

CFI has become an increasingly influential force for the promotion and defense of science in society and public policy. In recent years, it has played an indispensable role in several science-related issues. Examples include:

- CFI’s testimony to the Food and Drug Administration and consultation with the Federal Trade Commission led to new regulations on the marketing of dangerous **homeopathic fake medicine**.

- CFI's **Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Studies** (TIES) program trains middle school science teachers to teach evolution and handle pushback, and connects them with local scientists.
- Directly as a result of a media campaign from fellows of CFI's Committee for Skeptical Inquiry, the Associated Press no longer refers to **anti-science climate change deniers** as "skeptics," but as "doubters."
- CFI presented a **challenge to the climate change-denying Heartland Institute**, offering to donate \$25,000 to the organization if the Earth's average temperature failed to rise the following year. (Heartland declined, unwilling to "put its money where its exhaust pipe is.")
- As measles outbreaks emerged in Disneyland and other areas, enabled by **anti-vaccination misinformation**, CFI launched a campaign for science-based medicine, which included free bumper stickers proclaiming, "Protect Yourself, Protect Others: Vaccinate!"
- When anti-abortion zealots in Texas sought to cut off abortion access to millions of women, CFI shined a spotlight on the **manufactured, unscientific claims** of the alleged "experts" presented by the state in the monumental Supreme Court case of *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*.
- CFI has shined a harsh spotlight on the unethical and dangerous pseudo-medical practice of Stanislaw Burzynski -- just censured by his state's medical board -- whose **baseless cancer treatments** have preyed upon the hopes and fears of desperate cancer patients.
- Through its Secular Rescue program, CFI has helped save the lives of **rationalist, pro-science writers and activists** who had been targeted for death by religious extremists in countries like Bangladesh.

Publisher of Skeptical Inquirer magazine, CFI's was founded by luminaries such as philosopher **Paul Kurtz**, astronomer **Carl Sagan**, author **Isaac Asimov**, and illusionist **James Randi**. Today it boasts fellows and directors such as evolutionary biologist **Richard Dawkins**, astronomer **Neil deGrasse Tyson**, science communicator **Bill Nye**, theoretical physicist **Lawrence Krauss**, SETI Institute chair **Jill Tarter**, and *Cosmos* co-creator **Ann Druyan**. CFI merged with the Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science in 2016.

CFI Michigan will have a booth at the Lansing March where people can learn more about their programs and local events. Learn more about wide range of Center for Inquiry's work in advocacy, community, and inquiry in its [2016 Progress Report website](#).

Center for Inquiry–Michigan is a nonprofit educational, advocacy, and outreach organization based in Grand Rapids, MI. Its mission is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry, and humanist values. More information about CFI–MI is available at [www.centerforinquiry.net/michigan](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/michigan)

###

---

Hey Everyone, my name is Jennifer Beahan and I'm the Program Director at Center for Inquiry Michigan.

I am really excited to see you all at the March for Science this Saturday!

The Center for Inquiry is a leading advocate for science and reason, and we are very proud to be sponsoring the Michigan March for Science in Lansing this Saturday.

We are sponsoring the march because science is a fundamental tool for understanding the universe around us, and it has always been under relentless assault from those who find its conclusions inconvenient, and by those who would endanger the lives of their own citizens and sacrifice our planet because of greed or profit.

It is vital that we speak out against efforts by the current administration and Congress to reject reason and deny scientific facts on crucial issues such as climate change, vaccinations, reproductive rights, and fake medicine.

That's why I hope to see you Saturday to march with us in support of scientific research and evidence-based public policies on Saturday!