

September 19, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Thune, and Leader Schumer:

The undersigned organizations, including patient advocacy organizations, professional scientific and medical groups, and other aligned stakeholders, representing a broad range of medical and public health interests, write to you today to urge swift passage of a final appropriations bill that protects the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and provides at least \$48.7 billion in funding for NIH in fiscal year 2026 (FY 26), and to ensure that any appropriations bill or continuing resolution is free from harmful policy riders.

With longstanding support from bipartisan majorities, Congress has empowered NIH to advance research that has improved our nation's health and quality of life. Discoveries made with NIH support have led to myriad innovations that treat, cure, and prevent disease. Communities across America have benefited from the medical and economic benefits of NIH funding, from new approaches to identifying and treating cancer<sup>[1]</sup>, to support for small businesses and the generation of commercial biomedical innovations<sup>[2]</sup>. However, we are alarmed by the administration's proposal to cut NIH funding by 40%, coupled with disruptions to NIH operations and release of grant funds in recent months, which have prevented scientific progress in areas of critical national interest, including chronic disease<sup>[3]</sup> and preventing the spread of viruses with pandemic potential<sup>[4]</sup>.

Congress has the power to protect NIH from these devastating cuts and disruptions through the appropriations process by taking the following actions:

**Providing adequate financial support:** Medical research thrives when Congress provides steady, sustainable increases in funding. Adequate support for research that accounts for inflation is necessary to maintain progress on current priorities and provide confidence for the next generation of scientists who are still in their training period. Long-term continuing resolutions or shutdowns severely impact scientific progress and introduce uncertainty for research teams across the country. We urge Congress to prevent this disruption by

expeditiously passing a final bill that funds NIH to at least \$48.7 billion, consistent with the amount passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee, before September 30.

**Legislating to the current NIH structure:** The current structure of the 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs) at NIH has been developed over decades through input from Congress, scientists, patients, and other stakeholders. We appreciate that both the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills preserve the agency's current structure, and that the Senate's report reminds the administration that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and Energy and Commerce Committees must receive 180-days' notice prior to making any structural changes to the agency.

While we welcome a thoughtful conversation about how NIH can improve processes and better meet the scientific demands of new public health challenges, a rapid consolidation through appropriations would create uncertainty about strategic prioritization. Without broad public input, a restructuring or consolidation could result in a failure to recognize certain necessary priorities, such as rare or orphan diseases. We ask Congress to ensure that input from the authorizing committees and stakeholders is considered before any changes are made to the NIH's current structure.

**Avoiding arbitrary caps on research costs:** We recognize the questions raised by Congress and the administration about appropriate use of taxpayer funds on Facilities and Administrative (F&A) cost rates applied to NIH grants. However, these costs are an instrumental part of ethical, reproducible, and transparent research, and should be supported appropriately by the federal government in partnership with research institutions. We urge Congress to avoid placing a direct cap on F&A rates through appropriations bills as this would jeopardize meritorious research that has higher costs related to e.g., ethical oversight or advanced instrumentation. Instead, we ask Congress to continue the ongoing dialogue with researchers and institutions aiming for a more transparent budget that gives taxpayers and Congress the information they need about the total cost of research.

**Prevent forward-funding of all NIH grants:** We are alarmed by the policy change to provide full forward-funding for all NIH grants immediately when awarded. This policy, which the administration began applying in FY 2025, is having immediate and disastrous near-term effects on paylines for investigator-initiated research funded by NIH, severely disadvantaging trainees and early career researchers who are seeking their first NIH grant. Moreover, the policy would create additional barriers to the appropriate oversight of ongoing grants, especially for sensitive research such as clinical trials. We urge Congress to prevent NIH from continuing this policy in FY 2026.

In conclusion, we appreciate the work that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have done to date to advance bills that avoid cuts to NIH and demonstrate bipartisan support for research. The Congress now has the opportunity to help our nation's scientists make the next discoveries that will improve public health by passing a final appropriations bill that funds NIH adequately and protects this lifesaving agency from further disruption. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Brain Coalition  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geophysical Union  
American Industrial Hygiene Association  
American Kidney Fund  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)  
American Physiological Society  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Thoracic Society  
American Urogynecologic Society  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
AVAC  
Center for Endometriosis Care  
Coalition of Skin Diseases  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory  
Endocrine Society  
Endometriosis Association  
Entomological Society of America

Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
Gerontological Society of America  
Great Lakes Center for Reproductive and Children's Environmental Health  
Health Care Without Harm  
HealthyWomen  
HIV Medicine Association  
Institute for Protein Innovation  
Kids for Saving Earth  
Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health Inc.  
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
MDI Biological Laboratory  
Monell Chemical Senses Center  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Kidney Foundation  
Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Society  
NephCure  
Northern California Institute for Research and Education, Inc., NCIRE  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)  
Parkinson's Foundation  
Population Association of America  
RTI International  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Behavioral Medicine  
Society of Experimental Psychologists  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Toxicology  
The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
The College on Problems of Drug Dependence  
The Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Myositis Association  
The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)  
The National Pancreas Foundation  
Treatment Action Group

VHL Alliance  
Vision Sciences Society  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
Women's Health Advocates

---

<sup>[1]</sup> Berk-Krauss, J., et al., "New Systematic Therapies and Trends in Cutaneous Melanoma Deaths Among US Whites, 1986-2016" Am J Public Health. 2020 May;110(5):731-733. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2020.305567. Epub 2020 Mar 19.

<sup>[2]</sup> Azoulay, P., et al., "Public R&D Investments and Private-sector Patenting: Evidence from NIH Funding Rules" Rev Econ Stud. 2019 Jan;86(1):117-152. doi: 10.1093/restud/rdy034. Epub 2018 Jun 15.

<sup>[3]</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/06/04/health/trump-cuts-nih-grants-research.html>

<sup>[4]</sup> <https://www.science.org/content/article/nih-terminates-network-aimed-stopping-pandemics-they-start>