

June 16, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

On behalf of the undersigned organizations including patient advocacy groups, professional scientific and medical societies, and other aligned stakeholders representing a broad range of medical and public health interests, we write to express our concern regarding barriers – some of which are being imposed by the Office of Management and Budget – that are disrupting National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research at institutions throughout the country and undermining the stability of the scientific workforce. While we appreciate your work to date funding and protecting NIH, we urge Congress to:

1. Provide \$51.3 billion for NIH in fiscal year 2027; and
2. Ensure that these funds are spent as intended by Congress to support meritorious research consistent with scientific opportunity and public health priorities.

We continue to receive reports from our members about several issues that merit increased attention from Congress:

1. Multi-year funding - The Administration's pursuit of multi-year funding practices continues to reduce the number of grants funded by the agency in the near-term, limiting NIH's flexibility to respond to emerging scientific opportunities and contributing to instability across the research ecosystem. Data show sharp declines in funding rates, with hundreds of fewer grants supported following adoption of this policy compared to previous years^{1,2}.

2. Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) - Delays and inconsistencies in the release of NOFOs are preventing researchers from planning effectively and disrupting continuity for laboratories and research programs. Reports from NIH institutes and centers differ with some reporting that they cannot release new NOFOs until FY 2027 and others that they will not be releasing any in the future. The actual policy has not been clearly communicated so the research community can respond appropriately. This has even affected Congressionally mandated programs, such as the Special Statutory Funding Program for Type 1 Diabetes Research. As an example, the funding opportunity for the coordinating center for The Environmental

¹ https://www.researchamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/ACT-for-NIH-Multi-Year-Funding-One-Pager_October-2025.pdf

² <https://www.science.org/content/article/nih-research-grant-success-rates-plummeted-2025>

Determinants of Diabetes in the Young (TEDDY) study remains forecasted, despite an anticipated application due date in 2025³.

3. Transparency - The lack of transparency surrounding funding decisions has generated widespread uncertainty among researchers and institutions. NIH's longstanding peer-review processes, guided in part by transparently reported paylines, have helped ensure fairness, scientific rigor, and confidence in funding decisions. Departures from these norms should be clearly communicated and justified, with sufficient guidance to grantees regarding funding decisions, such that applicants have confidence that awards are selected based on scientific merit and public health priorities.

4. NIH Staffing - Insufficient staffing levels across NIH are impairing the agency's ability to administer grants, conduct timely reviews, provide oversight, and communicate effectively with the research community. Reductions in force and ongoing workforce shortages are delaying critical research progress; an informal survey of center directors supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) indicates that the cumulative delay in receiving a Notice of Award across the P30 centers program is approaching two years. For some institutions, severe delays lasting several months have forced personnel reductions and layoffs.

The undersigned groups are also aware of the proposed rule by OMB to revise the Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance related to the management of grants, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance. We believe that this rule, as written, will exacerbate all the issues described in this letter and urge Congress to take action to protect NIH. Congressional support for NIH has long reflected a bipartisan recognition that medical research improves lives, strengthens the economy, and enhances national competitiveness. We respectfully urge Congress to pair continued robust funding with strong oversight to ensure NIH can carry out its mission effectively and that appropriated funds are deployed in a timely, transparent, and predictable manner consistent with congressional intent.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the nation's biomedical research enterprise.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Vision Research
Alpha-1 Foundation
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Immunologists

³ <https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/f42076d6-528a-48da-8a80-ae9e58e06adf>

American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Brain Coalition
American College of Radiology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Industrial Hygiene Association
American Kidney Fund
American Liver Foundation
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
American Pediatric Society
American Physiological Society
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)
American Society of Biomechanics
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Human Genetics
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Thoracic Society
American Urogynecologic Society
American Urological Association
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Autoimmune Association
AVAC
Center for Endometriosis Care
Coalition of Skin Diseases
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Diabetes Leadership Council

Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
Endocrine Society
Endometriosis Association
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
GO2 for Lung Cancer
Heart Failure Society of America
Immune Deficiency Foundation
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders
La Jolla Institute for Immunology
Lupus Research Alliance
MassCOSH
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR)
National Kidney Foundation
Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Society
NephCure
North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (NANETS)
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
NPWH
Pediatric Endocrine Society
Pediatric Policy Council
Population Association of America
Society For Biomaterials
Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of Experimental Psychologists
Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (SGNA)
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Toxicology
Susan G. Komen
The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
The Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy
VHL Alliance
Women First Research Coalition

Women's Health Advocates

cc: The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Parry Murray, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations