

June 10, 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 patient advocacy, research and other professional organizations, representing a broad range of medical and public health interests, write to you today to express our strong support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and express our strong concerns about actions being taken by NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) now to prevent or delay legally appropriated funds from being spent in fiscal year (FY) 2025. Additionally, we oppose the proposals from the Trump Administration for FY 2026 to implement significant cuts and a reorganization of NIH. We assert that these cuts and restructuring plans, developed without Congressional or stakeholder expertise, will essentially dismantle NIH as we know it, preventing the agency from conducting lifesaving research and fulfilling training objectives in accordance with statutory requirements. We urge Congress to act now to protect this vital agency by addressing the following three issues:

1. Appropriated Research Funds are Not Accessible

Across the communities we represent, we hear from scientists that they remain unable to access funds to conduct their research despite their applications receiving excellent scores from grant review panels or a Notice of Grant Award from NIH. Myriad areas of research are affected, including those consistent with the President's Executive Orders or Memoranda. Indeed, many affected studies are aimed at addressing the Administration's own stated priorities such as diabetes and cancer. The lack of rationale or explanation for withheld funds is creating significant uncertainty for basic and clinical research, which has also impacted patient care in the context of clinical trials. We ask Congress to investigate the cause of disruptions to grant funding and work with HHS to reestablish effective processes for the review of grants and distribution of funds to support new and ongoing meritorious research proposals following established peer review processes.

Additionally, we are extremely concerned that the administration will continue to withhold significant research funds through executive orders, memoranda and other official acts, including a directive to existing institutes and centers to reduce their FY 2025 budgets by 30% or more. These actions are creating real and imminent disruption to research and wasting valuable taxpayer dollars that have already been spent on in-progress studies as time-sensitive experiments lapse and technical instrumentation is not maintained. If NIH is

prevented from distributing these funds expeditiously, this will eventually create a situation where NIH cannot deliver grant funds by the end of the fiscal year, resulting in an impoundment by default. To protect research from impoundment, we ask Congress to include language in appropriations bills to ensure that funds are spent as appropriators intend.

2. Restructuring is Taking Place Without Transparency

We understand that agencies across HHS, including NIH, are being asked to develop plans to significantly restructure their offices and personnel, develop entirely new organizational charts, and merge offices without input from Congress or the broader medical research community. Implementing such changes without Congressional oversight and stakeholder input raises fundamental questions about how important research strategies and long-term plans will be supported in the new structure. We are particularly alarmed by plans to move certain Institutes and offices outside of NIH entirely, which would introduce inefficiencies in grant review and awards, and create barriers to multidisciplinary collaboration and engagement across fields of research. Additionally, we have concerns about plans to combine other institutes and centers without a clearly stated scientific rationale or guarantee that research on rare and more common conditions that occur across the lifespan will continue to be supported. While we understand that HHS is currently under a court order to halt any restructuring processes, we remain concerned that many plans have already been developed and implemented in part through budget cuts and reductions in force. We ask Congress to exercise its oversight authority immediately and demand that HHS halt any pending changes to the organization of NIH and instead provide a scientific and policy rationale for these changes with an opportunity for Congress and stakeholder comment prior to their implementation.

3. Cuts Will End U.S. Leadership in Medical Research

Our community stresses that a 40% cut to NIH, as proposed in the President's FY 2026 budget, would be disastrous for medical and public health research in the short and long term. If implemented, and with the administration planning to use multi-year funding to immediately draw down appropriations, NIH may not be able to issue any new awards in FY 2026 beyond what is strictly required in statute. This would drastically reduce funds available for graduate student and postdoctoral training, immediately shutting off the nation's pipeline of expert medical scientists who are trained to serve in technical and scientific roles throughout the economy. This would also decimate paylines for investigator-initiated research, preventing the United States from identifying and developing the next great medical breakthrough.

Without action, we believe that the bipartisan investments that Congress has made over the years will be eroded, setting science and the country's medical research enterprise back for decades resulting in fewer new cures and poorer health for Americans. Should this funding be cut off—and ultimately impounded—it will take years for NIH and the country's medical research and public health communities to recover. In addition to our immediate concerns about FY 2025 funding, we urge Congress to reject the administration's request to cut NIH funding to \$27 billion in FY 2026 and instead provide \$51.3 billion to support continued growth in medical research funding.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

American Brain Coalition

Academic Pediatric Association

Academy for Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

American Association of Immunologists

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American Dental Education Association

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

American Gastroenterological Association

American Geophysical Union

American Heart Association

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)

American Kidney Fund

American Liver Foundation

American Lung Association

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

American Pediatric Society

American Physiological Society

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Nutrition

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Society of Hematology

American Society of Nephrology

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

American Thoracic Society

American Urogynecologic Society

American Urological Association (AUA)

Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration

Association of Academic Physiatrists

Association of Independent Research Institutes

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Population Centers

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

Center for Endometriosis Care

Civil Service Employees Association, Local 1000 AFSCME

Coalition of Skin Diseases

ConnectiCOSH

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

Endocrine Society

Endometriosis Association

Entomological Society of America

Epilepsy Foundation of America

Friends of NIAAA

Foundations for Sarcoidosis Research

Great Lakes Center for Reproductive and Children's Environmental Health

Health Care Without Harm

Healthy Environment and Endocrine Disruptor Strategies, HEEDS.org

Healthy Schools Network

HealthyWomen

Heart Failure Society of America

HIV Medicine Association

IC&RC

ICWUC Center for Health and Safety Education

Infectious Diseases Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology

International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, North America Chapter

Lupus Foundation of America

MassCOSH

Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance

Medical Students for a Sustainable Future

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)

National Kidney Foundation

Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Society

NephCure

Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)

Pediatric Policy Council

PIRE: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

Population Association of America

Radiological Society of North America

RICOSH

Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention

Society for Neuroscience

Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology (SPER)

Society for Pediatric Research

Society for Psychophysiological 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 Family Planning

Society of General Internal Medicine

Society of Gynecologic Oncology

Society of Toxicology

Susan G. Komen

TB Alliance

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)

The Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy

The National Pancreas Foundation

The North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (NANETS)

Treatment Action Group

VHL Alliance

Vision Sciences Society

West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.

Women's Health Advocates

cc: Members of the House of Representatives and Senate