

January 20, 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:

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, write to urge the swift passage of a final appropriations bill that protects the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and provides at least the Senate-approved funding level of \$48.7 billion for NIH in fiscal year 2026 (FY26).

With longstanding bipartisan support, Congress has empowered NIH to advance research that has significantly improved the nation's health and quality of life. NIH-supported discoveries have led to innovations that treat, cure, and prevent disease, delivering substantial medical and economic benefits to communities across the country, from new approaches to identifying and treating cancer to support for small businesses and the development of commercial biomedical innovations. Unfortunately, continuing resolutions, the recent government shutdown, and disruptions to the timely review of meritorious grant applications have created persistent uncertainty that is undermining progress on critical national health priorities.

A continuing resolution or partial shutdown beyond January 30 would further exacerbate challenges facing NIH-funded researchers nationwide. Without a full-year appropriations bill, NIH will be forced to continue delaying awards for new projects and restricting funding levels. These delays not only slow scientific progress but also risk job losses, as researchers may be unable to retain essential staff while awaiting funding decisions. For time-sensitive or longitudinal studies, such disruptions can result in the permanent loss of data and research momentum, wasting taxpayer investments already made in critical programs. To prevent further delays to lifesaving research and reaffirm the United States' leadership in medical innovation, Congress must pass a full-year appropriations bill that

funds NIH at \$48.7 billion in FY26, consistent with the bipartisan bill adopted by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Congress has a critical role in protecting NIH from disruptions to its grantmaking process and in sustaining support for both longstanding and emerging research priorities. Consistent with this goal, the final negotiated FY2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) bill should limit the proportion of multiyear-funded grants to levels consistent with FY2024 as the Senate bill does. A significant expansion of multiyear funding would have immediate and severe effects on success rates for investigator-initiated research, disproportionately disadvantaging trainees and early-career investigators seeking their first NIH awards. Such a policy could also hinder appropriate oversight of ongoing grants, particularly for sensitive research such as clinical trials. Accordingly, we urge inclusion of the Senate bill language in the final negotiated text stating that NIH “may not increase the proportion of multiyear grants awarded in FY2026 compared with the proportion awarded in FY2024 unless NIH awards the same total number of grants in FY2026 as in FY2024.”

In addition, we urge Congress to prevent the imposition of arbitrary caps on facilities and administrative (F&A) rates by retaining Senate report language that affirms the current negotiated rate model and prohibits NIH from developing or implementing a modified approach. F&A costs support essential activities necessary for conducting rigorous, transparent, and ethical research and cannot be absorbed by researchers under a strict and arbitrary cap. Instead, Congress should work with the stakeholder community to comprehensively assess the full costs of research across diverse settings, including urban, rural, and ecological environments, as part of any future consideration of alternative funding models.

In closing, we appreciate the work of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to date to advance bipartisan legislation that avoids cuts to NIH. However, we are increasingly concerned that Congress may not complete action on the LHHS bill before January 30. We urge Congress to move swiftly to finalize the LHHS appropriations process and deliver a bill that adequately funds and protects this vital, lifesaving agency. Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research  
Accessia Health  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alpha-1 Foundation

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Anatomy  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Immunologists  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American Association of Physicists in Medicine  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Brain Coalition  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American Diabetes Association  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Heart Association  
American Kidney Fund  
American Lung Association  
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)  
American Pancreatic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physiological Society  
American psychological association services  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Transplantation  
American Thoracic Society  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association (AUA)  
Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
AVAC  
Beyond Celiac  
Breakthrough T1D, formerly JDRF  
Case Western Reserve University  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine  
CDH Research International  
Center for Endometriosis Care  
Choose Healthy Life  
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science  
Coalition of Skin Diseases  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Cure HHT  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Endocrine Society  
Endometriosis Association  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences (FABBS)  
First Candle  
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
Genetics Society of America  
Gerontological Society of America  
Head for the Cure  
Healthy Birth Day, Inc.  
HealthyWomen  
Heart Failure Society of America  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hope Charities  
Indiana University  
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Kids for Saving Earth  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lupus Research Alliance  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network

Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Scleroderma Foundation  
Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Society  
NephCure  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
NPWH  
Nutrition and Medical Foods Coalition  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organic Acidemia Association  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Periodic Paralysis Association  
Platelet Disorder Support Association  
PreemieWorld Foundation Inc.  
Prevent Blindness  
Project Sleep  
PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy  
Radiological Society of North America  
Renal Physicians Association  
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society For Biomaterials  
Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention  
Society for Developmental Biology. Please list only society name, no people names  
Society for Leukocyte Biology  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER)  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Behavioral Medicine  
Society of Family Planning

Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (SGNA)  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Toxicology  
TB Alliance  
The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
The Foundation for Peripheral Neuropathy  
The National Pancreas Foundation  
The Obesity Society  
Treatment Action Group (TAG)  
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine  
U.S. Pain Foundation  
UMass Chan Medical School  
United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc.  
University of California, San Francisco  
US Hereditary Angioedema Association  
VHL Alliance  
Vision Sciences Society  
wAIHA Warriors  
Women First Research Coalition