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The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray,

On behalf of Research!America, a national nonprofit, nonpartisan alliance that advocates for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all, thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement for the Senate Appropriations Committee's hearing, "*Biomedical Research: Keeping America's Edge in Innovation.*" We deeply appreciate your leadership and the Senate Appropriations Committee's stewardship over the annual appropriations process.

While our remarks focus specifically on the roles the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) play in the research and development (R&D) ecosystem, biomedical discovery and innovation in the United States is the product of a public-private sector driven pipeline that relies on the participation and insights of patients. NIH-funded research uncovers knowledge and disease targets that the private sector translates into preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic, and curative measures. The FDA assesses safety and effectiveness. This seemingly simple, public-private sector process is anything but simple, even as the medical and health progress it achieves is astounding. Whether the measure is lives saved, health protected, or quality of life restored, medical progress serves individuals and society in both measurable and immeasurable ways.

The National Institutes of Health drives the discovery of new treatments and cures

NIH has become the most impactful research institute in the world because federal policymakers from both sides of the aisle listened to patients and, on their behalf, demanded medical progress. Across Administrations and Congresses, NIH has been equipped to fund noncommercial, basic and translational research in

every state and territory of the United States. This determined, bipartisan support has enabled the Institutes to propel remarkable progress: for example, between 2010-2019, nearly all ([99.4%](#)) drugs approved by FDA were grounded in NIH research. NIH has also played a significant role in reducing cancer deaths by [34%](#) since 1991. Additionally, last year, drug overdose deaths dropped by [24%](#), partly due to Narcan, which was developed through NIH-funded public-private partnerships. Based on more than 30 years of public opinion surveys commissioned by Research!America, Americans across the political spectrum have long aligned in strong support of federal funding of medical and health research. Our January 2025 survey shows that [85% of Americans believe that even if it provides no immediate benefits](#), basic scientific research is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

Beyond the impact of NIH-funded research on health, NIH delivers concrete economic returns to the American people. In FY24 alone, NIH funding generated \$2.56 in economic output for every dollar invested, contributing to a total of [\\$94.6 billion in new economic activity](#). Americans feel the benefit of these strong scientific investments, [92% think that it's important for the U.S. to be a global leader in health research](#).


The Food and Drug Administration enables safe translation of medical discoveries

The FDA plays a pivotal role in translating scientific discoveries into health impact. By ensuring the safety and effectiveness of the treatments, diagnostics, and devices emerging from NIH and industry-fueled R&D, the FDA is essential to translating innovation from the lab to the patient. In total, \$3.9 trillion worth of food, medical, and tobacco products are currently under the purview of the FDA, constituting [nearly 21 cents of every dollar](#) spent by American consumers. The importance of the FDA as the bridge between discovery and impact cannot be overstated. An overwhelming [93% of Americans believe it is important for the President and Congress to do more to deliver faster medical progress](#) and [76% of Americans believe that advances in science and technology](#) will be essential to achieving better health outcomes for the next generation.

Our nation is at a crossroads. Unfortunately, large-scale staff cuts, grant and contract terminations, and other abrupt changes at NIH and the FDA have replaced science with uncertainty. There is one thing predictable about uncertainty: it is corrosive. Uncertainty breeds inaction, and inaction squanders innovation. Meanwhile, our global competitors are having a field day. China, Germany, and others are recruiting from our science & technology workforce and investing with a vengeance as they work to erode our nation's economic edge.

We urge members of the Committee to work with the Trump Administration to chart a new course, pursuing a bold strategy that bolsters the resources these agencies can bring to bear in the fight against deadly and debilitating health threats. Americans are needlessly losing health, hope, and time. The need is compelling, the ability to succeed is proven, and the scientific opportunity is unprecedented: we just need to seize it. Thank you for considering our views and for the extraordinarily important roles you have long played in accelerating life-saving medical progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellie Dehoney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellie" and last name "Dehoney" clearly distinguishable.

Ellie Dehoney
Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
Research!America

CC:

Members of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee