

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 12, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, and Education  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, and Education  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Capito, and Ranking Member Baldwin:

As you and your colleagues begin to work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 appropriations bills, we respectfully request that you maintain a strong commitment to funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education FY 2026 Appropriations bill.

Thanks to sustained investment and longstanding bipartisan support for basic and translational research, the NIH has delivered transformative advances in biomedical science that have improved care and strengthened our economy. We commend your leadership in recognizing continued federal support for the NIH is critical to preserving America's position as the global leader in medical innovation and to driving the discoveries that save and improve lives.

The value of NIH funding is well-established and broadly recognized across all fifty states. By supporting research that tackles a wide range of health challenges – from chronic conditions to rare diseases, mental health illness, and substance use disorders – the NIH delivers tangible benefits to the American people. Investments in NIH have fueled groundbreaking achievements, including decoding the human genome and developing cutting-edge responses to urgent public health crises like the fentanyl epidemic. NIH-backed research continues to yield life-changing therapies, moving innovations from the laboratory to the bedside. With the cost of chronic medical conditions exceeding a trillion dollars annually, sustained investment not only drives innovation, but also serves as a vital strategy for reducing long-term health care expenses.

Sustained and predictable investment in the NIH is essential not only to supporting America's current scientific workforce but also to building the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and innovators. Strong federal funding helps promising young scientists stay in the field, enables experienced investigators to continue their work in the United States, and ensures that America – not our adversaries and competitors – remains the world's leading destination for biomedical

research. Without reliable investment, we risk losing a generation of talent to nations that are aggressively expanding their research capacity and directly challenging America's scientific leadership.

In today's competitive global environment, the NIH's role extends beyond health outcomes; it is vital to our national security and economic competitiveness. Strategic competitors like China are aggressively investing in biotechnology and biomedical research, aiming to surpass the United States in these critical fields. Continued strong investment in the NIH ensures that America remains the world leader in scientific discovery and innovation, safeguarding our ability to set international standards, protect intellectual property, and maintain a technological edge. Undermining NIH's capacity would risk ceding leadership in the life sciences to foreign adversaries, with serious consequences for both our economy and national security.

Even as we celebrate the NIH's successes, we recognize that maintaining public trust in the agency is critical. It is essential the NIH continues to operate with the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and stewardship of taxpayer resources. Recent concerns regarding oversight highlight the need for continued transparency, but these challenges must not jeopardize the important health and scientific research that NIH supports. Rather, they highlight the need to pair stronger oversight with continued investment in the NIH's essential work advancing scientific innovation. These priorities are not mutually exclusive; both are essential to preserving America's leadership in biomedical research.

We recognize today's challenging fiscal environment. Nevertheless, if we are to successfully address emerging health threats, improve the lives of Americans, maintain U.S. leadership in biomedical innovation, and protect our national security, we must continue to prioritize investment in the NIH. We therefore respectfully urge the Committee to provide strong and sustained funding for the NIH in FY 2026, including the full funding allocations authorized under the 21st Century Cures Act. Thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

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