

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

[[DATE]]

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plays in making Americans healthier, global competitiveness, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the funding level for the agency's foundational work in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 should be at least \$51.3 billion. In addition, we urge that any funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health should supplement, not supplant, this necessary growth in the NIH base budget.

From longstanding challenges like cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, obesity, chronic disease, and the mental health and opioid epidemics, to emerging threats like yet unknown infectious diseases, the research that NIH supports in labs nationwide has a profound impact on patients, families, and communities. In a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity across all disease areas, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs, equip the next generation of students and medical researchers, and sustain our international leadership in biomedical research.

In the last few years, medical research has led to new therapies that are transforming patient care for diseases such as sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, and through the use of CAR-T cells, certain types of cancer. Providing \$51.3 billion for the NIH would build on the longstanding bipartisan commitment to NIH-supported research that has made such accomplishments possible. We are at the tip of the iceberg of new life-saving innovations. Imagine what we can accomplish with more robust investments in medical research, from making strides to combat antimicrobial resistance, to harnessing the power of personalized medicine to treat disease, and more. The critical investments we make in biomedical research are our nation's best hope in finding cures, prevention measures, and treatments for diseases that affect millions of Americans. For these reasons, hundreds of organizations representing patients, scientists, health professionals, educators, institutions, and industry [support](#) this funding recommendation.

The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industries to undertake alone. Non-commercial foundational and clinical research funded by the NIH, coupled with private sector innovation, has led to major achievements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as well as historically prevalent diseases like ALS, substance use disorders, stroke, and Parkinson's. In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding – which is distributed following a rigorous and statutorily required peer-review system with publicly available

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guidelines – extends to every state, nearly every congressional district, and supports over 300,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at more than 2,500 medical schools and research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, boosting local and regional economies to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state and many U.S. territories. Furthermore, in FY 2024 NIH research funding generated nearly \$95 billion in new economic activity and supported approximately 408,000 jobs across the U.S. In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH not only as a research agency improving the health of all Americans, but also as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital leader in curbing our nation’s soaring healthcare costs.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least \$51.3 billion in funding for the NIH base budget in FY 2026.

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