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The Hon. Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The undersigned organizations and individuals thank you for your steadfast support of medical research, as reflected in your successful efforts to bolster the National Institutes of Health budget after a decade of budget stagnation. Your unshakable belief in defeating threats like Alzheimer's, cancer, and the opioid crisis has brought about incredible medical progress, responding to the needs and expectations of American families.

We are deeply concerned that the President's Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget request does not embrace the bold path of progress you have each been so instrumental in creating and instead would **reverse** it. In fact, the budget request proposes cutting the NIH budget by an astounding eighteen **billion** dollars and summarily consolidating or eliminating institutes and centers without congressional hearings or public input.

A recent survey commissioned by Research!America shows that [9 out of 10 Americans](#) across the political spectrum want President Trump and the U.S. Congress to assign a higher priority to ensuring faster medical progress. Americans clearly don't want the Administration or Congress to turn their backs on medical progress; they want their elected leaders to dramatically accelerate it.

NIH-funded research saves lives, drives medical breakthroughs, and fuels job creation in communities across all 50 states. At less than 1% of the federal budget, NIH delivers an outsized return on investment, generating \$2.56 in economic activity for every \$1 invested.

It's no secret that China is investing in medical research hand over fist. Cutting and gutting NIH would be an act of self-defeat for our nation, choking off our previously unrivaled research & development pipeline and leaving Americans dependent on other countries to determine whether their health needs will be met.

We respectfully request that you reject any cuts to NIH and instead work with the Administration on a different path forward, one that sets the stage for unprecedented medical progress as our nation approaches its 250th anniversary. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, which represents over 500

institutions and organizations, including many of us, recommends a funding level of at least \$51.3 billion in NIH funding for FY26 to keep pace with scientific opportunity and urgent health needs. This funding level is bold. It speaks to the opportunity to shatter the boundaries of medical progress and empower more Americans to leave illnesses behind. It would be our privilege to work with you and with the Trump Administration to advance this vision.

Regarding the proposed restructuring of NIH, we look forward to working with Congress as you and the authorizing committees hold hearings and engage with the public to review these reorganization ideas.

Thank you again for your leadership, and please thank your respective staff members for their tireless efforts on behalf of us all.

CC:

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Sincerely,