

**Testimony of Research!America to the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Concerning Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations for NIH, ARPA-H, CDC, BARDA, and AHRQ**

Contact: [Eleanor \(Ellie\) Dehoney](#), Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy,
Research!America

Submitted for the Record: June 10, 2025

On behalf of Research!America, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). With more than 300 organizational members, the nonprofit, non-partisan Research!America alliance advocates for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all.

In the interests of the health, security, and prosperity of the American people, we ask that you markedly increase resources for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Agency (BARDA), and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in FY26. These federal agencies fight diseases that harm and kill Americans and people across the globe. There is no mission more important or urgent.


NIH supports research conducted at universities, colleges, academic health centers, independent research institutes, and small businesses in all 50 states. That research uncovers disease targets that the private sector translates into preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic, and curative measures. Based on [more than 30 years of national public opinion surveys](#) commissioned by Research!America, Americans across the political spectrum have long been aligned in strong support for this life-saving work. Our January 2025 survey shows an extraordinary level of support: [93% of Americans](#) believe it is important for President Trump and Congress to assign a higher priority to medical progress.

Robust funding for NIH is not only crucial to improving the health of the American people, but also for strengthening the U.S. economy and growing our global leadership in science & technology. NIH has become the most impactful federal research agency in the world. Further, in FY24 alone, every dollar invested in the NIH generated \$2.56 in economic activity, driving a total of [\\$94.6 billion in new economic activity](#). A striking [92% of Americans](#) believe it is important for the U.S. to be a global leader in health research. As it stands, less than one percent of the federal budget is allocated for medical research, and NIH can only fund about one in five of the promising research proposals it receives. We ask that the Committee propel our nation into a demonstrably faster era of life-saving medical progress by allocating \$51.3 billion for NIH in FY26.

In addition to NIH, we strongly support robust funding for other research and public health agencies under the jurisdiction of the LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee, including CDC, BARDA, AHRQ, and ARPA-H. These agencies work in unique and critically important ways to accelerate medical progress, safeguard public health, and continuously improve the health care Americans receive. CDC works 24-7 to minimize the risk health threats Americans may experience, whether they are living and working in communities here at home or serving our nation overseas. BARDA leverages R&D against biothreats that place our national security and the lives of every American at risk. ARPA-H is an engine of innovation, bringing together teams to make leaps in medical progress. These agencies are the envy of the world and assets that should be dramatically strengthened to ensure our nation's future is one of security, prosperity, and the lightening pace medical progress Americans want.

We urge the Committee to champion NIH, ARPA-H, CDC, BARDA, and AHRQ to the enduring benefit of the American people. We thank the Senate Appropriations Committee and your respective staff members for your hard work in service to our nation.

Sincerely,

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

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