



November 19, 2025

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241 18th Street South
Suite 501
Arlington, VA 22202

P 703-739-2577
F 703-739-2372
E info@researchamerica.org

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the [Research!America](#) Board and our more than 300 member organizations across the nation, thank you for your commitment and hard work on the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee.

As negotiations proceed on a final FY26 LHHS bill, we would like to express our appreciation for your steadfast support for NIH, which is apparent in past appropriations measures and in your decision to propose a \$99 million increase for the Institutes in your FY26 LHHS bill. Your support remains pivotal to the future of NIH-funded research, and by extension to our nation's role in disarming health threats that rob Americans and populations across the globe of health, hope, and time.

In that context, we request that the conferenced product include at least \$47.201 billion for NIH, exclusive of ARPA-H, which would provide an increase of \$400 million over FY25 funding. Bolstered funding strongly aligns with the priorities and expectations of the American people. A national public opinion survey Research!America commissioned earlier this year found that a majority of Americans, across the political spectrum, believe the United States should [invest more tax dollars in science and technology](#) and that President Trump and Congress [should assign a higher priority to ensuring faster medical progress](#).

In addition, we urge funding the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) at no less than \$1.5 billion, in a way that supplements - rather than supplants - core investments in NIH and other health agencies. ARPA-H programs have already begun to deliver results to patients. In April, ARPA-H awardee Satio, Inc. announced the development of [Digital SatioRx](#), a low-cost, remotely controllable, reusable intradermal drug delivery device that allows for

improved patient care in telehealth and home healthcare settings. Researchers supported by ARPA-H at the [University of Miami](#) have already made major steps to develop a device that will be critical for the success of whole human eye transplants. ARPA-H-supported [researchers at Stanford](#) have created new tools to 3D print the complex vascular trees needed to carry blood throughout a bioprinted organ, such as a heart. ARPA-H's momentum is just getting started, and if there is a means of sustaining its funding at \$1.5 billion without supplanting dollars for NIH, we believe our nation would strongly benefit from that appropriations result.

Research!America strongly supports the House bill's \$1.1 billion funding level for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Agency (BARDA), which is essential to protecting Americans from emerging biological threats and antimicrobial resistance.

We also want to affirm efforts to strengthen transparency in NIH's grantmaking processes. Enhancing visibility into how funding decisions are made, while maintaining the rigor of peer review, will help reinforce public confidence and ensure appropriate congressional oversight.

Recognizing the difficult tradeoffs the appropriations process requires, we also encourage inclusion of several measures in a final FY26 Labor-HHS bill that would protect the stability and continuity of U.S.-based medical research: maintaining current indirect cost reimbursement policies; providing the highest possible funding levels for federal research and public health agencies; and incorporating the language to ensure that NIH's rapid shift to [multi-year funding](#) does not reduce the number of new and competing grants below FY24 levels. Together, these protections will help ensure that promising research continues uninterrupted and that patients are not forced to wait longer for new treatments and cures.

We appreciate your leadership and continued commitment to advancing discovery and improving the lives of all Americans.

With appreciation and continued partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Woolley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America