

PPC Action Alert

Tell Your Lawmakers to Fund Pediatric Research!

We are reaching out today with an advocacy opportunity and ways for you to advocate for pediatric research in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

State of Play: Congress is in recess during the month of August, which means federal lawmakers are back home in their states and districts meeting with constituents and attending local events. When they return to Washington in September, they will need to take action to fund the federal government before the end of the current fiscal year on September 30, 2025.

With negotiations on federal spending legislation ongoing, now is a key time for lawmakers to hear from you about the importance of maintaining robust funding for pediatric research.

What lawmakers need to hear about pediatric research: Research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has led to major advances in pediatric health care that have translated directly into improved health outcomes for children. This research continues to yield valuable results: scientific breakthroughs enabled by federal investments in pediatric research mean that children today survive previously fatal conditions.

Robust funding of the NIH is crucial to continue forward momentum in developing treatments and therapies designed specifically to address children's health conditions and their unique health care needs.

Please take the time to urge Congress to support continued funding for this research. Your outreach will help ensure that lawmakers understand the importance of sustaining funding for NIH and accelerating biomedical research progress.

Once you've contacted your members of Congress, check out Research!America's [2025 August Advocacy Challenge](#) for inspiration about other steps you can take to advocate for biomedical research funding. The organization that scores the most points for the various activities will be rewarded with a special prize from the PPC Chair when we reconvene in September.

Contact Your Lawmakers Today

Here's how:

By Phone: You can call the **U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121** to be connected to your U.S. representative's and senators' offices. Or you can go to [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) to find contact information. The contact information for their Washington, DC office is available on their websites.

Talking Points

- Hello. My name is {First and last name} from {City, State}. I am an academic pediatrician specializing in {insert your area of research expertise e.g., pediatric endocrinology, etc.}.
- I am calling today to urge {Senator/Representative's name} to support strong federal investments in pediatric research as part of Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations.
- Federal investments in biomedical research have unlocked lifesaving treatments and improved the health and well-being of all young people. Continued investments in pediatric research are critical for the health of children and families.
- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the largest supporter of biomedical research in the world and has played a key role in developing treatments and therapies designed specifically to address children's health conditions and their unique health care needs. This includes the important work of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), which plays a critical role in driving a pediatric research agenda across NIH.
- Scientific breakthroughs enabled by federal investments in pediatric research mean that children today survive previously fatal conditions.
- *[Share a specific example of how your research or work has contributed to improved child health care and outcomes]*
- I am urging {Senator/Representative's name} to prioritize children in federal spending decisions so that children can continue to benefit from biomedical research.
- Thank you for your time.

By Email: You can email your representative through their website. You can find your U.S. representative by going to [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and using the "Find Your Representative" feature at the top right of the page. To find your U.S. senators, visit [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) and use the "Find Your Senators" feature at the top left of the page. Email your U.S. representative and senators through the contact form on their websites.

You can customize this email by adding an additional paragraph with specific information about yourself and your state, such as this:

I am an academic pediatrician specializing in {insert your area of research expertise e.g., infectious diseases, etc.}, which means I am {insert potential practical outcome of research e.g., looking for a cure for Type 1 diabetes}.

Email text:

Subject: Support Strong Federal Investments in Pediatric Research in FY 2026

As an academic pediatrician, I urge {Senator/Representative's name} to prioritize sustained, robust investment in pediatric research is Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 by providing \$51.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Federal investments in biomedical research have unlocked lifesaving treatments and improved the health and well-being of all young people. Continued investments in pediatric research are critical for the health of children and families.

The NIH is the largest supporter of biomedical research in the world and has played a key role in developing treatments and therapies designed specifically to address children's health conditions and their unique health care needs. This includes the important work of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), which plays a critical role in driving a pediatric research agenda across NIH.

In recent decades, investments in pediatric research through the NIH have led to major advances in pediatric health care that have translated directly into improved health outcomes for children through the development of new therapies, vaccines, and diagnostic tests. Robust funding of the NIH is crucial to continue forward momentum in developing treatments and therapies designed specifically to address children's health conditions and their unique health care needs.

[Share a specific example of how your research or work has contributed to improved child health care and outcomes]

Continuing this research is critical to the health of children and families. Congress must ensure that the NIH remains a leader in funding for child health research. To that end, please prioritize sustained, robust investments in pediatric research so that children can continue to benefit from biomedical research.

Thank you for your time.