



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

CIRCULATING FOR SIGNATURES

DATE

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

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

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

Dear Speaker Johnson, Democratic Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, Democratic Leader Schumer, Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Collins, and Vice Chair Murray:

The #### undersigned organizations representing patients, scientists, health professionals, academic and research institutions, educators, and industry that support funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), write to thank you for your leadership

in support of medical research and to urge you to work together to finalize (FY) 2027 appropriations for NIH as expeditiously as possible.

We are grateful that Congress and the President approved a short-term continuing resolution to ensure uninterrupted government funding, and we urge Congress to continue its bipartisan collaboration to finalize FY 2027 appropriations quickly to avoid the delays and bottlenecks in funding that we have seen in previous fiscal years. We strongly encourage you to prioritize an approach that completes the appropriations process before the end of the calendar year.

Timely funding decisions are vital to the NIH's operations, the scientists and research institutions NIH supports, and the patients who depend on continued scientific progress. Delayed appropriations create uncertainty about funding levels and hinder NIH's ability to award grants in a timely and optimally strategic manner. Medical research operates on carefully coordinated timelines, and unpredictable funding can postpone the purchase of specialized equipment and supplies, delay the launch of clinical studies and fundamental discovery research, and create uncertainty for trainees, early-career investigators, and researchers. Research institutions often must make staffing and infrastructure decisions based on anticipated award dates, while patients awaiting enrollment in clinical trials may face delays in accessing promising new interventions. Even modest delays in awarding funding can slow the pace of scientific discovery and postpone the development of new diagnostics, treatments, and preventive strategies.

As you know, for various reasons, FYs 2025 and 2026 have been marked by significant uncertainty and disrupted NIH operations, shortening the timeframe available for the agency to issue awards and leading to delays in many routine activities. Accordingly, labs nationwide have faced challenges in carrying out promising, meritorious research projects. In addition to the effect that the instability is having on science and patients in real time, it also already is beginning to take a toll on the nation's future scientific workforce, with recent press clips and other reports [highlighting dramatic declines in PhD applications and enrollment](#).

We are also appreciative that the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittees in both chambers have expressed concern over these disruptions and taken steps to attempt to address them. More recent developments – such as proposals allowing the current or future administrations to terminate grants for any reason or add new political reviews, unclear interagency agreements, and the full array of proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance – all hold the potential to derail the pursuit for cures. We encourage Congress to secure additional legislative language providing safeguards against policies that could further impact appropriated funding and research. We urge that this language build on the enacted provisions in the final FY 2026 spending bill establishing parameters for NIH's use of forward funding of multiyear awards and preserving research infrastructure, and language in the current continuing resolution pausing the proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance.

If the US wishes to continue to command an economic advantage over global competitors, we cannot afford to allow further erosion of the federal commitment to medical research that both parties have championed over decades. Our nation's competitiveness starts, at minimum, with timely completion of spending bills that make a strong investment in the NIH.

For these reasons, we urge Congress to finalize a robust, bipartisan FY 2027 appropriation for NIH as expeditiously as possible and provide the research community with the certainty to sustain the momentum of scientific discovery, strengthen the nation's medical research enterprise, and continue delivering new hope to patients and families across the country. Every day that funding decisions and research are delayed is another day patients and families must wait for potentially life-saving breakthroughs.

Sincerely,

[signatories]

cc: Aderholt, Capito, Baldwin