



November 18, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leaders Schumer, McConnell and Jeffries:

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), which represents leading scientific research institutions and industries, and patient advocates, we strongly urge you to swiftly pass a FY 2025 year-end spending bill — and one that includes at least \$50 billion in base funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

NIH research funding has been a long-standing bipartisan national priority, and Congress has wisely provided increases in funding for the better part of the last decade. Because of this commitment to our nation’s health, there has been incredible progress with cures and treatments of some of our most vexing diseases. Among recent NIH funded successes:

- A feasibility study showing the potential of a new form of deep brain stimulation (DBS) to significantly improve symptom control in Parkinson’s disease patients, through work done at the University of California San Francisco and supported through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and The BRAIN Initiative.
- Genetic discoveries are improving precision medicine for certain cancer treatments, thanks to research funded by NIH’s All of Us program. For example, DNA testing can now be used to help determine how much chemotherapy to give to a person with cancer.
- And NIH’s brilliant public-private collaboration is on full display as the National Cancer Institute and Thermo Fisher Scientific have partnered on an umbrella trial to leverage next generation sequencing technology in treating acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), two aggressive blood and bone marrow cancers.

Discoveries and innovations like these have real momentum and make a difference in every community in every state. However, looming budget challenges for NIH threaten the research progress that benefits American patients. Potential long-term continuing resolutions, flat funding, losing ground to inflation, and program specific cuts all threaten NIH research breakthroughs and related health outcomes. For example, funding for the popular and highly successful 21st Century Cures Act has diminished, and subsequently, programs like All of Us and the BRAIN Initiative are already cutting back. All of Us reports this year that it will have to delay enrolling a pediatric cohort of at least 100,000 children. The erosion of this critical research is one of the many reasons why strong FY 2025 funding for NIH is so urgent.

UMR Members

- AdvaMed
- Alzheimer’s Association
- American Association for Cancer Research
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- Association of American Cancer Institutes
- Association of American Universities
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
- BD
- Boston University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Johnson & Johnson
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Northwestern University
- Stanford University
- Texas A&M University Health
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- University of Pennsylvania
- Vanderbilt University
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Washington University in St. Louis

In addition to saving lives and improving health, NIH is a catalyst for economic growth. In fact, a recently released [UMR report](#) shows that, in FY2023 alone, NIH-funded research supported more than 412,000 jobs and nearly \$93 billion in economic activity across the United States, making the NIH a research and economic powerhouse. Our analysis found that every \$1 of NIH research funding generates \$2.46 in economic activity. Further, a [report](#) issued by UMR late last year reveals the exponential impact that research funding from the NIH has on rural states.

Millions of Americans are waiting for effective treatments and cures, and NIH's lifesaving mission is needed now more than ever. Underinvesting in biomedical research would jeopardize promising research on some of our most deadly diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's and ALS, as well as essential research on child health and development.

We implore you to provide strong, sustained and predictable funding of at least \$50 billion in base funding for NIH in the FY 2025 spending package.

UMR greatly appreciates your leadership and stands ready to help you in any way

Sincerely,

Caitlin M. Leach
Director of Federal Relations, Northwestern University
President, United for Medical Research

Jaren Love
Government Relations Manager, Association of American Cancer Institutes
Treasurer, United for Medical Research

Mary Beth Spencer
Senior Manager, U.S. Federal Government Relations, Thermo Fisher Scientific
Secretary, United for Medical Research

Julie Nickson
Director, Federal Relations, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN)
Board Member, United for Medical Research

Christina West
Associate Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University
Board Member, United for Medical Research

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro