



## The AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

### NIH Funding Fact Sheet and Key Messages to Emphasize in August

August 2025

#### Proposed Cuts and Drastic Restructuring to NIH Hinder Medical Progress and Risks Patients' Health

- The untenable proposed cut to NIH in the FY 2026 President's budget request would erase decades of progress in enhancing federal support for medical research that improves patient health and well-being and saves lives.
- The budget proposal would cut NIH funding by nearly \$18 billion or 40 percent below current levels and undermine progress on innovative research to develop treatments and cures for patients nationwide, further diminish our narrowing global leadership in medical research, and eliminate opportunities for top talent to pursue careers in making the next groundbreaking research discoveries.
- NIH cuts will lead to fewer cures. A recent report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that a permanent 10% reduction in NIH funding would result in a 4.5% decrease in the number of drug candidates entering Phase 1 clinical trials. By 2045, this policy is projected to result in 20 fewer new drugs reaching the commercial market. <sup>i</sup>
- For decades, bipartisan majorities in Congress have united in prioritizing medical research and supporting a healthier future for all Americans. Medical research and the discovery of lifesaving cures and treatments must continue to be bipartisan priorities.
- The President's budget also proposed drastic changes to the NIH, reducing the agency from 27 Institutes and Centers to 8—a proposal that has not been vetted by Congress and stakeholders and does not fully consider the impact on scientific research.
- We appreciate the Senate Appropriations Committee's bipartisan NIH spending bill that would bolster medical research funding and reject the President's call for massive cuts and uphold proper legal and administrative processes for considering any potential organizational changes to the NIH. We call upon the House appropriators to also invest in medical research in their bill expected to be considered in early September.
- ***Ask – Urge Congress to reject the massive, harmful cuts included in the President's FY 2026 budget request and immediate changes to the structure of the NIH.***

#### The Medical Research Community Supports Robust NIH Funding

- Over 500 organizations across the medical research stakeholder community recommend \$51.3 billion for the agency's foundational work in FY 2026.
- Medical researchers are closing in on breakthroughs for a range of conditions including Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, cancer, heart and lung diseases, and many others. Robust investments in medical research allow our nation to respond to existing and emerging health challenges, making continued progress to deliver cures to patients.



## The AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

- Robust NIH funding is critical to ensuring a steady pipeline of scientifically sound discoveries that can be translated into treatments and cures. These discoveries move from the lab bench to the bedside and ultimately to the marketplace.
- Continued congressional support for NIH drives economic growth, benefiting communities across the nation, and secures U.S. leadership in medical research and innovation.
- Predictable and sustained funding growth allows NIH to keep pace with higher research costs, while also ensuring NIH and the nation's medical research enterprise can expand its work in advancing new treatments and cures for patients and communities nationwide.
- ***Ask – Urge Congress to support the Ad Hoc Group recommendation of \$51.3 billion in FY 2026.***

### Americans Support Medical Research and Improving Patient's Health

- Public Opinion strongly favors federal investments in medical research.
  - A Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos Poll found a strong majority of Americans, 77%, oppose cuts in federal funding for medical research.<sup>ii</sup>
  - In a Research!America poll, 92% of Americans across the political spectrum believe the President and Congress should elevate the priority of medical progress.<sup>iii</sup>
  - The Science Coalition issued a poll finding 85% of Americans believe it is important for the United States to be the global leader in scientific research and technology.<sup>iv</sup>
- Patients living with chronic or life-threatening diseases cannot afford cuts and delays in the development of new therapies.
- Without strong federal investment in early-stage medical research, many promising treatments may never progress to clinical trials. The consequences of underfunding are not theoretical; they directly affect patients' lives and access to future cures.
- ***Ask – Urge Congress to back the large majority of Americans and oppose cuts to medical research and prioritize medical progress.***

### Funding Delays Threaten Medical Innovation

- A recent government watchdog report found that NIH violated the law in withholding grant funding, noting that over 1800 NIH grants were terminated between February and June 2025.<sup>v</sup>
- No patient awaiting a cure should wonder why research that could save their life is on hold when Congress has provided the funding for it, a panel of independent medical experts has rigorously vetted it, and the agency has approved it. There is simply no excuse for such artificial barriers to improving people's health.
- ***Educate – Inform Congress on the ongoing and unprecedented disruptions in medical research that undermines medical progress and patient health and well-being.***

### Cuts to Medical Research Puts U.S. Leadership at Risk



## The AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

- In recent years, global competitors have increased investment in research and development (R&D), while U.S. federal spending has declined. <sup>vi</sup>
- Continued investment in basic science attracts global talent and keeps the United States at the forefront of medical innovation.
- If U.S. investments falter, top researchers may pursue opportunities abroad, undermining the country's position as a global leader in science and medicine.
- Robust investment in domestic medical research ensures self-reliance, safeguarding American lives and national interests from other global competitors. If the U.S. cedes ground in developing cutting-edge therapies and next-generation cures, we risk compromising our health security and strategic autonomy.
- Nine in ten Americans agree it is important for the U.S. to maintain global leadership in health research. <sup>vii</sup>
- ***Educate – Inform Congress on the vital link between robust investments in medical research and U.S. global leadership in science and technology.***

### NIH Cuts Lead to a Weaker Economy and Fewer Jobs

- Public investment through NIH generates significant economic returns. Every dollar of NIH funding produces \$2.56 in economic activity, contributing nearly \$95 billion to the U.S. economy in FY 2024. <sup>viii</sup>
  - NIH funding supports research in every state and bolsters local economies, sustaining nearly 408,000 jobs in FY 2024 across almost every congressional district. <sup>ix</sup>
- NIH funding is not only a health investment, but robust NIH investment is also a driver of the nation's economic strength and long-term prosperity.
  - A 25% reduction in public R&D spending could shrink GDP by an amount comparable to the Great Recession. Halving public R&D investment could make the average American approximately \$10,000 poorer relative to projected GDP trends. <sup>x</sup>
  - Such cuts would also erode federal revenue, with a 25% reduction leading to a 4.3% drop in annual revenue, and a 50% reduction resulting in an 8.6% decrease. <sup>xi</sup>
- ***Educate – Inform Congress on how cuts to NIH would weaken the research workforce, damage economic output, and lead to weaker local and regional economies.***

### Merit-Based NIH Funding Protects Patients and Advances Medical Innovation

- NIH's merit review process is recognized worldwide as the gold standard for evaluating scientific proposals.
- Medical research funding decisions should be based on the quality and promise of science and not the whims of partisan political decision makers who lack scientific expertise.



## The AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

- Disrupting the merit-based awards process threatens the steady pipeline of discoveries that can be translated into diagnostics, treatments, and cures for patients.
- Predictable and robust merit-based funding for NIH allows researchers to plan multi-year projects, attract top talent, and ensure our long-term economic prosperity.
- **Ask – Urge Congress to protect NIH’s merit review system from political interference to ensure taxpayer dollars go to the best science.**

---

<sup>i</sup> Congressional Budget Office. How Changes to Funding for the NIH and Changes in the FDA's Review Times Would Affect the Development of New Drugs. <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61373>.

<sup>ii</sup> April 18-22 Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos Poll. <https://www.langerresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/1241a3100Days.pdf>.

<sup>iii</sup> Research!America poll of U.S. Adults Conducted in Partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2025. <https://www.researchamerica.org/press-releases-statements/national-survey-shows-americans-want-president-and-congress-to-assign-higher-priority-to-medical-progress/>

<sup>iv</sup> The Science Coalition. New National Poll Finds Strong Bipartisan Support for Federal Investments in Scientific Research. <https://www.sciencecoalition.org/2025/04/30/national-poll/>.

<sup>v</sup> Department of Health and Human Services—National Institutes of Health—Application of Impoundment Control Act to Availability of Funds for Grants. <https://www.gao.gov/products/b-337203>.

<sup>vi</sup> Science and Technology Action Committee. China is Investing More in Science and Technology Than Ever Before: Here’s Why That’s a Problem. <https://sciencetechaction.org/news-item/china-is-investing-more-in-science-and-technology-than-ever-before-heres-why-thats-a-problem/>.

<sup>vii</sup> Research!America 2025 August Advocacy Challenge Toolkit. <https://www.researchamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-August-Advocacy-Challenge-Toolkit-1.pdf>.

<sup>viii</sup> United for Medical Research. NIH’s Role In Sustaining The U.S. Economy. <https://www.unitedformedicalresearch.org/annual-economic-report/>.

<sup>ix</sup> Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. Federal Research Funding Data. <https://www.faseb.org/science-policy-and-advocacy/federal-funding-data>.

<sup>x</sup> Gonzalez Garcia, I., Montecino, J., & Ramaswamy, V. (2025). Preliminary Estimates of the Macroeconomic Costs of Cutting Federal Funding for Scientific Research (Version 1). Institute for Macroeconomic and Policy Analysis. <https://doi.org/10.57912/28746446>.

<sup>xi</sup> Ibid.