



February 6, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Chair Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), a coalition of America’s leading research institutions, private industry, and patient advocates, we urge you to avoid a year-long continuing resolution (CR) that would damage the nation’s ability to innovate and tackle our most debilitating diseases.

A bipartisan, bicameral agreement on FY 2024 Labor-HHS Appropriations that funds the National Institute of Health at no less than \$47.7 billion is critical to the health of every community across the United States and critical to keep research moving forward on Alzheimer’s, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and many rare diseases as well. While this funding level, which was passed overwhelmingly by the Senate Appropriations Committee, does not keep pace with medical inflation, it would avoid devastating cuts and uncertainty brought on by a year-long CR.

For more than seven years, bipartisan leadership in Congress has made biomedical research a national priority. It has passed strong, sustainable, and responsible NIH budgets that not only invested in the health of its citizens but maintained the agency’s competitive edge as the global leader in medical research. Every state contributes to NIH’s basic research mission, a mission that helps protect our nation and gives patients and families hope for future breakthroughs.

Funding NIH in FY 2024 by a continuing resolution would curtail new research and deny opportunities for our brightest young minds to enter the biomedical research field. It would also stall the great momentum of discovery from the last several years and bring instability to one of our country’s core responsibilities – investing in the health of its citizens. The consequences of this outcome would last for years.

Your leadership is urgently needed to move past destabilizing CRs and to help fund NIH and its mission at a strong and sustainable level. Thank you, and UMR stands ready to help you and your FY 2024 Appropriations efforts in any way.

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

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 Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito