



April 20, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairs Capito and Aderholt and Ranking Members Baldwin and DeLauro:

On behalf of [United for Medical Research \(UMR\)](#), a coalition of America's leading research institutions, private industry, and patient advocates, we urge the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee to help keep the United States the world leader of biomedical research by providing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) a base budget of at least \$51.3 billion in Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations.

UMR is grateful to Congress's continued bipartisan support of the NIH and for last year's increase in the agency's funding. Under your leadership, more life-saving medical advances are closer to reality and are providing hope to millions of patients whose diseases and conditions await the next generation of treatments or cures.

The Administration's FY 2027 budget request, which calls for a 12.3 percent cut to the current NIH budget, is cause for deep concern for the continued success of America's [biomedical innovation ecosystem](#). This kind of cut would undermine our ability to save and improve lives with cutting-edge discoveries and innovations, and it would deliver a blow to the economies of every state.

UMR has [calculated](#) that compared to FY 2025, a 12.3 percent cut to the NIH budget could mean a loss of nearly 50,000 jobs and \$11.58 billion in economic activity nationwide. These losses would be felt in every area of the country, with 26 states potentially losing more than \$100 million each in economic activity.

Contrast these findings with UMR's [annual analysis](#) of the economic impact of research funding from the NIH, which found that, the \$36.58 billion awarded to researchers in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia in FY 2025 supported 390,863 jobs and \$94.15 billion in new

## UMR Members

AdvaMed  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Society of Hematology  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Harvard University  
Johns Hopkins University  
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

economic activity nationwide. These studies demonstrate that every dollar invested in the NIH does double-duty by supporting America's health and economic wellbeing.

UMR's members see daily the kind of breakthrough treatments that are constantly improving the lives of patients. Thanks to the commitment of Congress, NIH-funded grants reflect our nation's urgent mission to understand, treat and cure diseases like [Alzheimer's](#), [cancer](#), diabetes, [epilepsy](#), heart disease, obesity, [drug and alcohol addiction](#) and the threats posed by infectious diseases.

Because of the NIH and its incredible partnership with American research institutions, private industry and patient advocacy groups, the U.S. has moved discoveries from the lab to the marketplace like no other country in the world. But several countries, notably China, continue to make major investments in biomedical research. If we are to maintain our role as the dominant country for biomedical research and attract and retain the best and the brightest minds, Congress must make robust and sustainable investments in medical research.

Thank you for your leadership and for making strong NIH funding a bipartisan national priority. By providing the NIH with at least \$51.3 billion for its base budget in FY 2027, Congress will help ensure the agency continues to improve and save lives across our great country.

There is no investment more powerful or important than one that protects the nation's health and provides hope to patients and families. UMR greatly appreciates your support and stands ready to help you in any way.

Sincerely,

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

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

Ken Monahan  
Senior Director, U.S. Government Relations, Thermo Fisher Scientific  
Secretary, United for Medical Research

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

Alexander Sutton  
Director, Federal Advocacy, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS-CAN)  
Board Member, United for Medical Research

