May 14, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room S-146A  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 136  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies  
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 125  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Baldwin, and Ranking Member Capito:

As you and your colleagues begin to work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills, we respectfully request that you maintain a strong commitment to funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education FY 2025 Appropriations bill.

In recent years, NIH has been able to advance biomedical innovation and research because of sustained investments. The unprecedented advances in biomedical science over the past several decades would not have been possible without the groundwork laid over many years of investment in basic research. We commend you all for continuing to recognize the critical role supporting the NIH plays in spurring discoveries that will save and improve lives, and for your continued dedication to laying the foundation for new treatments and therapies that may help the United States address our most challenging public health needs. It is essential to continue this federal support for the benefit of the American people and to ensure that our Nation remains at the forefront of medical research.

The NIH is our country’s premier institution for biomedical innovation, supporting research in all fifty states. This research is essential to developing preventive measures, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases, including heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer’s, diabetes, mental health illnesses, and substance use disorders, among others. Fully funding this agency is critical if America is going to continue leading the world in biomedical research and advancing cutting-edge research. It is also through NIH-supported, innovative medical research that we will learn more about emerging conditions and conduct early-stage research to rapidly identify solutions to public health challenges. Ballooning expenses associated with chronic medical conditions cost the federal government and private sector more than a trillion dollars annually,
and investing in medical research is one of the best tools in our toolbox to curb these escalating trends.

Our investment in the NIH has supported biomedical research in times of both trial and triumph, such as when NIH-led researchers decoded the human genome, and in times of trial, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of this research contribute to improved health outcomes and economic growth. NIH grants fund basic, clinical and translational research that turns bench-side findings into bedside interventions for patients. NIH supports the work of nearly 38,000 principal investigators and over 300,000 individuals focused on cutting-edge biomedical research at 2,500 institutions across the country. But America has faced challenges in maintaining its position as the world leader in research and development, and many researchers have similarly struggled to secure funding. As NIH grants become more competitive, researchers can easily spend half their careers working before receiving a grant. Sustained NIH funding allows scientists to do what they do best—discover tomorrow’s therapies and cures. It also prevents promising, talented young researchers from leaving the field of biomedical research and ensures that seasoned investigators continue to conduct their research in the United States.

We recognize the difficult choices that need to be made with respect to the budget. If we are to continue grappling with emerging threats, as well as improve the health of Americans and the quality of their lives, we must continue to invest in biomedical research that has the potential to save and improve lives, as well as reduce long-term health care expenditures. As your Committee makes funding decisions for FY 2025, we urge you to consider the tremendous benefits of sustained and robust investment in the NIH, and ask you to remember our Nation’s role as a world leader in biomedical research and the impact this research has on the American people. We also ask that you include the full allocation of funding for the NIH provided by the 21st Century Cures Act. Investing in research today will continue to yield cures and therapies for patients tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

James Lankford
United States Senator

John Cornyn
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator