FASEB
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 110,000 Researchers

6120 Executive Blvd., Suite 230, Rockville, MD 20852 | faseb.org

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2025

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

Founded in 1912, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a coalition of 22 biological and biomedical societies representing 110,000 individual scientists, has grave concerns about the budget request submitted by the administration and urges you to reject the proposal as you craft the fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations bills. If enacted, the unprecedented and severe 40 and nearly 60 percent cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), respectively, will severely erode progress in biomedical and biological research and cede the United States' position as the world leader in research to other nations.

FASEB is profoundly grateful for your bipartisan commitment to NIH and NSF as expressed in the annual spending bills that have been approved over the last several years. We recognize the extraordinary effort that is required to develop, consider, and negotiate the appropriations measures, especially when the committees are working with strict spending caps and inadequate allocations. Your ability to work together and achieve compromise has made NIH the largest public funder of biomedical and behavioral research in the world and the driving force behind decades of advance that have improved health, revolutionized the scientific enterprise, and served our society more broadly by training the next generation of scientists and engineers who will work in U.S. biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. Recently the increased investments in NSF have led to the creation of a new directorate (Technology, Innovation and Partnerships directorate or TIP) which is the first new directorate at NSF in more than 30 years. TIP is aimed at accelerating technology translation and development, fostering regional innovation and economic growth, and cultivating new pathways to facilitate building a skilled American workforce for better-quality, higher-wage jobs.

The best path forward for our country is to continue strong and robust investments in research by funding grants for highly skilled researchers and scientists committed to careers of scientific discovery and by supporting the facilities and administrative costs critical to the work at academic and medical

institutions. If the U.S. is to be prepared to respond to future threats to our security and economic status, our scientific leadership must continue to advance and accelerate knowledge to keep up with our competitors. This is only possible through sustained and robust federal investments in NIH and NSF.

In March, more than 50 advocates from 29 states representing FASEB societies went to Capitol Hill and asked Congress to provide at least $51.3 billion for NIH, a recommendation supported by over 525 organizations, and $16.7 billion for NSF, the 2025 authorized level for the agency in the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act. These critical funds will support cutting-edge research and train the next generation of scientists.

Rather than approve the shortsighted and ill-advised cuts for NIH and NSF proposed by the administration, we ask that you give full consideration to FASEB's FY 2026 funding recommendations which will put science agencies on a path of sustained increases that will enable discoveries to improve and protect our health. In addition, as detailed in FASEB's Federal Funding Factsheets, money appropriated to NIH and NSF has direct financial impacts on each state and nearly all Congressional districts.

Investments in biological, biomedical, and physical sciences research also pay dividends in terms of preventive intervention, diagnostics, treatments, and cures. Federal funding supports high quality jobs, boosts local economies, and contributes toward creating a healthier population able to contribute to society on both the national security and economic development fronts. This is a national investment with measurable returns.

Concerns about loss of scientific talent are also looming as students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) make decisions concerning which country to study and further their careers. NIH and NSF provide substantial funding for university-based research. A reduction in such funding could make universities less competitive in attracting top talent, including foreign students who are keen to contribute to high-impact research. As their perception of instability increases and fears of sudden changes in their immigration status in the U.S. take hold, they will seek opportunities in other countries such as Canada, Germany, and China which will reap the benefits and hold the patents.

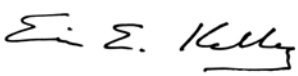
Even U.S. born STEM talent are seeking better resourced opportunities in other countries as their career prospects dwindle and uncertainty persists. There is also a particularly strong and negative impact on students pursuing PhDs or postdoctoral fellowships, which are heavily reliant on grants. Expecting the private sector to make up the difference in the budget for a lack of robust and steady federal funding of research is not reasonable and raises concerns about the future of the research enterprise since the private sector is expected to produce a profit, not serve the public good. The private sector also does not contribute as much to fundamental or basic research as the federal government does because it must show a return on investment and has a shorter timeframe to do so. In addition, private companies tend

to be more risk adverse than government agencies so pushing the boundaries of understanding new concepts is less likely in the private sector, due to their conservative risk profile and the need to answer to shareholders and boards for their financial investments. Long-term research and development for projects with generational timelines, e.g., Alzheimer's research, don't align with this mindset.

While touted as a path towards achieving necessary cost savings and increasing government efficiency, the draconian approach recommended by the administration's FY 2026 budget request will slow progress towards life-saving research, impede health care delivery, and reduce training opportunities for the next generation of scientists that will be needed to support our biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. NIH funded research is critical to responding to existing and emerging health challenges such as chronic disease, autoimmune diseases, and novel viruses. Patients with debilitating diseases without any therapeutic treatments or clinical trials face more pain and suffering and the loss of hope if NIH funds significantly less research due to budget cuts. NSF has already cut the number of graduate research fellowships they are able to fund due to the continuing resolution enacted in FY 2025, reducing career opportunities for the next generation of researchers.

We implore you to work in a bipartisan manner to complete work on the FY 2026 appropriations bills by September 30 and have been encouraged by the House Appropriations Committee's progress thus far. Our biological and biomedical researchers are counting on your leadership and looks forward to working with you to ensure that the U.S. remains at the forefront of innovation and scientific discovery. We stand ready to be a resource to the appropriations committees and would be pleased to address any questions you may have about our funding recommendations for NIH and NSF. Please contact Jennifer Zeitzer, Deputy Director at Jzeitzer@faseb.org.

Sincerely,



Eric E. Kelley, PhD

FASEB President