

Advocating for Research and NIH Funding



Over the last couple of months, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has experienced massive workforce reductions and announced drastic cuts to funding for indirect costs that go to universities as part of peer-reviewed NIH-awarded research. In addition, there have been **reported** proposals that could result in a more than \$20 billion cut to the NIH budget, including a massive restructuring that could see a reduction of individual institutes within the NIH from 27 to 8, eliminating some and consolidating others.

As Congress works to set Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding levels for NIH and other important research and public health programs, lawmakers need to hear from constituents about the impact this funding has on the development of cures and treatments for serious diseases. In addition, Congress needs to hear about how executive actions impacting research and public health issued by the current administration have created uncertainty, confusion, and extreme concern among the research community.

Reach Out to Your Members of Congress

Reach out to your members of Congress today and urge them to protect the NIH and not make cuts that could result in the reduction or elimination of important research. You can reach out to them by phone or email.

By Phone: Call the US Capitol switchboard at 202.224.3121 to be connected to your US representative and senators' offices. You also can find your US representative by visiting [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and using the "Find Your Representative" feature at the top right of the page. To find your US senators, visit [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) and use the "Find Your Senators" feature at the top left of the page. The contact information for each member's Washington, DC, office is available on their website.

By Email: Email your members of Congress through their websites. You can find your US representative by visiting [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and using the "Find Your Representative" feature at the top right of the page. To find your US senators, visit [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) and use the "Find Your Senators" feature at the top left of the page. Email your US representative and senators through the contact form on their websites by customizing the talking points below.



Use stories: Personal stories always play an important role in any advocacy efforts. When utilizing these talking points, be sure to make them your own. Using stories from your own experience can be hugely impactful and provides real world information to policy makers that could impact their decisions.

Don't be too technical: Try not to use too much medical terminology. Use plain language or be sure to explain any medical conditions or procedures you discuss. You could risk losing the larger point if policy makers do not understand the language you use.

Remember, you're the expert: ASPHO members have an important role to play in these types of advocacy efforts. Pediatric hematologists/oncologists have the education and training to understand the medical implications of certain policy decisions that are being made and always have the best interest of their patients in mind when making decisions.

Be a resource: Offer to be an ongoing resource if and when policy makers need to consider these types of issues. Developing relationships with legislative offices helps both the pediatrician, the policy maker, and most importantly, your patients.

NIH Talking Points

- **Historically, Congress has always had strong, bipartisan support for the NIH and the important work this agency does** in the areas of biomedical research, and we urge this continued commitment by providing robust, sustained, and predictable funding in fiscal year (FY) 2026.
- **Federal support for research, led by funding from the NIH, has enabled the development of new medical treatments for pediatric patients with cancer and blood diseases** that save lives, reduce human suffering, and spawn new industries.
- **NIH funding has played a pivotal role in supporting the development of cures and treatments** for life-threatening childhood diseases.
- **Advances in hematology have led to cures** for pediatric leukemia, increased the lifespan of patients with sickle cell disease, and provided revolutionary treatments in bone marrow transplant.
- **Research into pediatric cancer treatment and prevention has improved pediatric survival,** advanced clinical trials, and helped to develop immunotherapies that help immune systems to fight off cancer.
- **The advances made in these areas would not have been possible without research funding from NIH.**
- **Investments in NIH also spur economic growth in communities across the nation** by supporting jobs in universities, medical schools, and drug manufacturers. In FY 2024 alone, [NIH research contributed](#) to more than \$94.58 billion in new economic activity and nearly 408,000 jobs.



This resource is also available to subspecialists through our website at <http://aspho.org/knowledge-center/advocacy-brief/health-policy-and-advocacy>.