

Advocates were successful in stopping proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in fiscal year 2026. However, the **President's proposed fiscal year (FY) 2027 budget** called for a 12%, or \$5 billion, cut to the NIH budget. The proposed budget also includes capping the level of indirect costs for research grants at 15% of the grant's total.

As Congress continues their work to set FY 2027 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.

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.

- **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 FY 2027.
- **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>.