



May 16, 2025

The Hon. Shelly Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health & Human Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health & Human Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health & Human Services
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor Health & Human Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chair Alderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the more than 2,000 members of the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO), we urge you to prioritize funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in FY 2026 and preserve existing protections against cuts to reimbursement for NIH grantee Facilities and Administrative costs. ASPHO is the only professional organization dedicated solely to subspecialists in pediatric hematology/oncology. ASPHO members, physicians, researchers, and allied health professionals treat virtually all children, adolescents, and young adults who have cancer, bleeding and clotting disorders, thrombosis, sickle cell disease, and other blood-related issues and deliver care to the most vulnerable members of our population. NIH funding is essential to advancing the care and cures for our patients' diseases.

Federal Grants Cure Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders: NIH funding has played a pivotal role in supporting the development of cures and treatments for life-threatening childhood diseases. Advances in biomedical research have led to cures for pediatric leukemia, increased the lifespan of patients with sickle cell disease, and provided revolutionary treatments in bone marrow transplant and personalized medicine. These care improvements would not have been possible without valuable research funding from the NIH.

Biomedical Research Stimulates Economic Growth: Biomedical research plays an important role in stimulating our economy. On average, each dollar of NIH funding generates more than twice as much in economic output. Investments in NIH also spur economic growth in communities across the medical research enterprise and across the nation by supporting jobs in universities, medical schools, drug manufacturers, and the thousands of businesses, large and small, that support them. In FY2024 alone, NIH funded research contributed to more than \$94.58 billion in new economic activity and over 400,000 jobs.¹

¹ https://www.unitedformedicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UMR_NIH-Role-in-Sustaining-US-Economy-FY2024-2025-Update.pdf



National Progress Leads to Global Leadership: We live in a time when scientific opportunity and global competition demand stronger investment in biomedical research, not drastic funding reductions. Recent executive actions impacting research and public health have created uncertainty, confusion, and extreme concern among the research community. The pediatric hematology/oncology community is worried that recent executive actions will lead to stagnation in scientific progress, delays in developing new treatments and cures, and drastically weaken the U.S. research ecosystem for decades to come. Investing in national progress and innovation can and will maintain our standing as global leaders in science and medicine.

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring continued investment in scientific discovery and innovation. We hope our insights will remind you of the importance of strong NIH funding to the health of America's children and request that you continue to prioritize funding to this important agency. If you have any questions or additional information, please contact Wendy Chill, Health Policy and Advocacy Manager at wchill@aspho.org.

Sincerely,

Maria Velez, MD FAAP
President