

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2026

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

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

As you and your colleagues begin to work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 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 2027 Appropriations bill.

Thanks to sustained investment and longstanding bipartisan support for basic and translational research, the NIH has and continues to deliver transformative advances in biomedical science that have improved care and strengthened our economy. We commend your leadership in recognizing continued federal support for the NIH is critical to preserving America's position as the global leader in medical innovation and to driving the discoveries that save and improve lives.

The value of NIH funding is well-established and broadly recognized across all fifty states. By supporting research that tackles a wide range of health challenges – from chronic conditions to rare diseases, mental health illness, and substance use disorders – the NIH delivers tangible benefits to the American people. Investments in NIH have fueled groundbreaking achievements, including decoding the human genome and developing cutting-edge responses to urgent public health crises like the fentanyl epidemic. NIH-backed research continues to yield life-changing therapies, moving innovations from the laboratory to the bedside. With the cost of chronic medical conditions exceeding a trillion dollars annually, sustained investment not only drives innovation, but also serves as a vital strategy for reducing long-term health care expenses.

Sustained and predictable investment in the NIH is essential not only to supporting America's current scientific workforce, but also to building the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and innovators. Strong federal funding helps our promising young scientists stay in the field, enables experienced investigators to continue their work in the United States, and ensures that

America – not our adversaries and competitors – remains the world’s leading destination for biomedical research. Without reliable investment, we risk losing a generation of talent to nations that are aggressively expanding their research capacity and directly challenging America’s scientific leadership.

In today’s competitive global environment, the NIH’s role extends beyond health outcomes; it is vital to our national security and economic competitiveness. Strategic competitors like China are aggressively investing in biotechnology and biomedical research, aiming to surpass the United States in these critical fields. Continued strong investment in the NIH ensures that America remains the world leader in scientific discovery and innovation, safeguarding our ability to set international standards, protect intellectual property, and maintain a technological edge. Undermining NIH’s capacity would risk ceding leadership in the life sciences to foreign adversaries, with serious consequences for both our economy and national security.

We recognize today’s challenging fiscal environment, but these challenges must not jeopardize the important health and scientific research that NIH supports. If we are to successfully address emerging health threats, improve the lives of Americans, maintain U.S. leadership in biomedical innovation, and protect our national security, we must continue to prioritize investment in the NIH. We therefore respectfully urge the Committee to provide strong and sustained funding for the NIH in FY 2027, including the bill’s parameters for NIH’s use of forward funding of multi-year awards and other key provisions. Thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator




James E. Risch
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



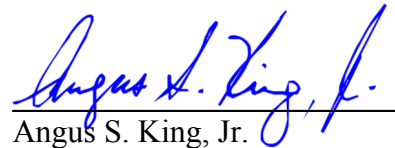
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



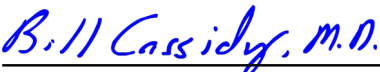
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



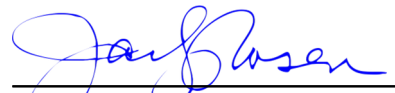
David H. McCormick
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



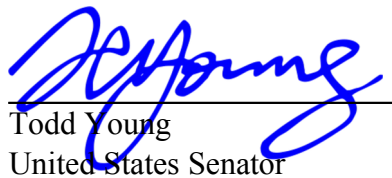
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

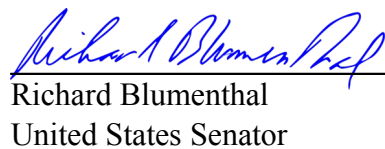


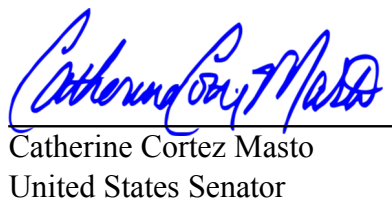
Rick Scott
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

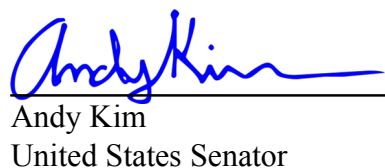

Todd Young
United States Senator

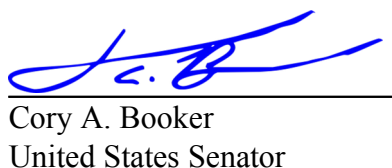

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

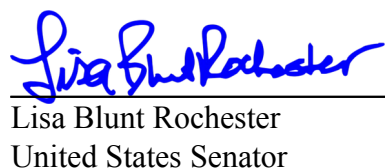

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

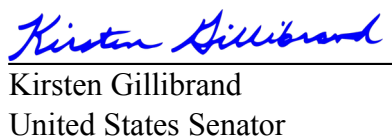

Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

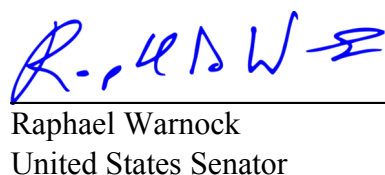

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

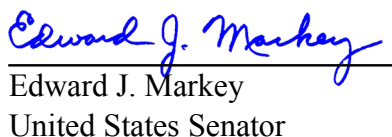

Andy Kim
United States Senator

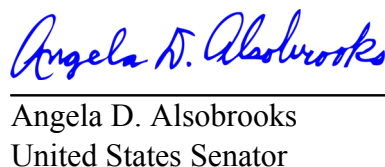

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator


Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator

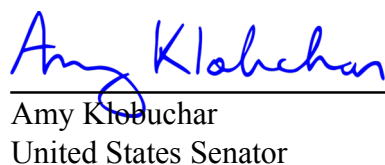

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Raphael Warnock
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator


Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



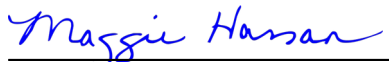
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



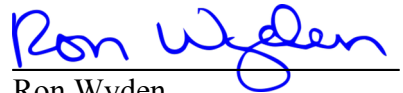
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



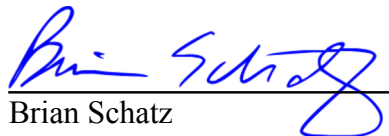
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



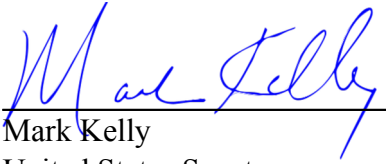
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Bernard Sanders in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Michael F. Bennet in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Adam B. Schiff in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator