

October 16, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Baldwin and Aderholt and Ranking Members Capito and DeLauro:

As you work toward finalizing Fiscal Year 2025 spending, we, the undersigned, urge you to **adopt the Senate's proposal for funding the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**. This funding is critical to ensuring that the nation can respond to public health challenges of today and disease threats of tomorrow.

NIAID plays an essential role in addressing long-standing domestic and global health challenges like influenza, asthma, cancer, HIV/AIDS, Sepsis, valley fever, deadly allergic reactions, long COVID, autoimmune diseases, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected diseases, and so much more. With a unique mandate to better understand, treat, and prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases, NIAID is forging paths to discovery to improve health and save lives. NIAID's cutting-edge research and network of scientists are eliminating some of the world's most serious health threats, as well as addressing risks to national security and public health, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Because of this work, NIAID is the world's leader in the global health research and development ecosystem. NIH and NIAID contributed to four-fifths of all U.S. government-supported global health technologies currently in the final stages of the R&D pipeline before they can reach the market and save lives. Thanks to long-term and sustained support from Congress for NIAID over the years, the U.S. has made groundbreaking progress in the fight against diseases at home and abroad.

These achievements include but are not limited to:

- NIAID-funded research spurred the development of the first vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). **The vaccine will help to prevent an estimated 160,000 hospitalizations and 10,000 deaths of older adults in the United States and is projected to save up to \$4 billion in healthcare costs.**

- Decades of NIAID investment helped facilitate public-private partnerships that led to the transformative development of Teplizumab, the first FDA-approved drug for delaying Type 1 diabetes (T1D) onset. **The drug can help delay the onset of T1D by two years following a single treatment, which could benefit nearly 200,000 U.S. children.**
- NIAID-funded research led to the **development of antiretroviral agents that suppress HIV to undetectable levels in the body**—keeping people with HIV healthy and preventing HIV transmission. Further, Protease inhibitors used in HIV treatment contributed to the development of direct-acting antivirals that cure hepatitis C.
- NIAID-funded research **enabled development of mRNA vaccines** in the first 100 days of the COVID-19 pandemic, which saved millions of lives worldwide and allowed the global economy to recover.
- NIAID scientists developed new technologies to identify geographic hot spots for Aedes mosquitoes—a type of mosquito that can spread diseases such as dengue, Zika, and chikungunya. The tool is poised to **deliver targeted interventions to fight dengue and other diseases in the U.S. and communities across the globe.**
- Asthma affects one in 13 Americans, including 20 million adults and over 5 million children. **A clinical trial funded through NIAID found that the monoclonal antibody mepolizumab reduced asthma attacks by 27% in children and adolescents with severe asthma.**
- An estimated 50 million Americans suffer from one or more autoimmune diseases, including 1.3 million adults with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). **NIAID researchers discovered a new species of bacteria in the gut that may trigger RA, offering new avenues for treatment and prevention.**
- Tuberculosis (TB), particularly in its drug-resistant forms, is not only a lethal threat globally (killing 410,000 per year), but remains a threat to the American people. **NIAID has provided significant funding for noncommercial translational research – ranging from early discovery-based efforts to late-stage preclinical development – to develop novel anti-TB medicines.** This is of fundamental importance, as research in potentially promising compounds has often been challenged by the inability to attract predictable, long-term funding that NIAID has been able to provide. These investments have led to continued breakthroughs in developing new TB treatments.

NIAID-supported research is a bridge from the bench to the bedside, bringing together the full spectrum of the biomedical research and healthcare communities in addressing antimicrobial resistance.

Each year, **drug-resistant infections impact more than 3 million Americans, killing at least 50,000 people in the U.S.** It is projected that AMR could become the leading cause of death globally by 2050 and cost the global economy \$100 trillion. **NIAID is instrumental in the development and training of the next generation of biomedical researchers and sustaining the current biomedical workforce.** Further investments in biomedical workforce development

at NIAID will yield far-reaching dividends for global health, global health security, and scientific diplomacy.

We urge you and your colleagues to work towards finalizing FY 2025 funding bills to avoid long-term continuing resolutions or a government shutdown and to ensure strong funding for the life-saving work of NIAID so that American ingenuity can continue to forge a healthier, safer, and more equitable world for all.

Sincerely,

American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Virology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
AVAC
Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Global Health Council
Global Health Technologies Coalition
HIV Medicine Association
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
IAVI
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Research!America
TB Alliance
Texas Biomedical Research Institute
Treatment Action Group