

Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairs Cole and Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro and Vice Chair Collins,

On behalf of the Friends of NIEHS, our organizations are writing today to express our concern regarding the effect of extended Continuing Resolutions (CRs) on biomedical research and call for a final fiscal year 2025 (FY 25) funding bill with \$48.9 billion for the base budget for the National Institutes of Health and a proportional increase for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to \$953.5 million. We also call for an increase to the Superfund Research Program (SRP), funded separately through the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill to \$89.3 million.

The Friends of NIEHS is a coalition of organizations representing a variety of interests, including medical and scientific professional societies, environment and public health focused organizations, children's health advocates, women's health advocates, and many others. Collectively, our community supports and calls attention to the vital work being done by the NIEHS which focuses on the prevention of health problems and diseases with special emphasis on the intimate interactions between our bodies and the environments where we live, work, and play over our lifetimes.

The LHHS portion of NIEHS-funded research has delivered foundational results that advance national priorities. Recent discoveries funded by NIEHS include insights on how cadmium exposure may lead to congenital heart defects; machine-learning based tools to more effectively diagnose Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS); links between exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and changes in metabolism leading to obesity, and how chemicals in plastic cause disproportionate effects in low-income communities and children.

The I&E portion of NIEHS' budget provides complementary and similarly vital information and resources. For example, the Worker Training Program Environmental Careers Worker Training Program (ECWT) has a proven record of delivering a strong return from a relatively modest investment. A recent study found that a \$3 million annual investment led to an added value of approximately \$1.79 billion from 1995 through 2013, or roughly \$100 million annually. Additionally, the same study found that the ECWT saved the government roughly \$40 million annually over this timeframe.

Budgetary pressures, coupled with the detrimental effects of Continuing Resolutions, will impact the ability of NIEHS supported research teams across the nation to advance these and other lines of research that provide unique knowledge about how the environment influences our health. We urge the Congress to swiftly finalize funding for FY 2025 with \$48.9 billion for the NIH base budget, \$953.5 million for NIEHS (via LHHS), and \$89.3 million for the SRP (via I&E).

Sincerely,

American Geophysical Union
American Thoracic Society

Civil Service Employee Association (CSEA)
Coalition of Skin Diseases
Connecticut Council on Occupational Safety and Health (ConnectiCOSH)
Endocrine Society
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Healthy Schools Network
International Chemical Workers Union
Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH)
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
New Hampshire Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (NHCOSH)
Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (RICOSH)
Rutgers School of Public Health
Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention
Society of Toxicology
University of Massachusetts Lowell