



# FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

## Representing Over 100,000 Researchers

6120 Executive Blvd., Suite 230, Rockville, MD 20852 | [faseb.org](http://faseb.org)

**Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)  
statement submitted for the record of the  
House Committee on Budget  
hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request  
April 15, 2026**

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record as White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russell Vought testifies before the committee regarding the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget Request.

FASEB is a coalition of 20 scientific societies representing over 100,000 biological and biomedical researchers. Our members conduct the research that drives treatments and cures for cancer, infectious diseases, neurological disorders, and countless other conditions that affect millions of Americans and advance efforts to ensure a diverse and representative workforce in the biological and biomedical sciences. Now the nation's largest biomedical coalition, FASEB is the recognized collective policy voice of biological and biomedical researchers. We advance health and well-being by promoting research and education in biological and biomedical sciences through collaborative advocacy and service to our member societies and their members. On behalf of our member societies, FASEB advocates for federal research funding and increased investment in biomedical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy Office of Science, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Veterans Administration Medical and Prosthetic Research Program.

We submit this statement to express concern over proposals in the FY 2027 president's budget request that would undermine not only progress in finding novel treatments for patients, but also negatively impact economic development across the U.S. and hamper biomedical and biological research progress. We also strongly urge Congress to compel the administration to act with urgency to avoid any further delays and disruptions in obligating FY 2026 funding at these agencies to comply with congressional directives provided in the final appropriations bills and accompanying report language.

**A Twelve Percent Cut to NIH and Fifty Five Percent Cut to NSF in FY 2027 Will Slow the Speed of Medical Advancements that Improve the Lives of American Citizens, Hamper the Advancement of Scientific Knowledge, Damage the International Standing of the U.S. and Allow Competitive Nations to Take the Lead in Research**

FASEB is concerned that the President's FY 2027 budget request for NIH, would irreparably harm the progress of biomedical research. The NIH is the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world, providing competitive grants to 300,000 scientists at universities, medical centers, independent research institutions and companies nationwide. Funding for NIH's



programs that support basic foundational research, as well as translational and clinical studies, provides patients with significant hope for medical breakthroughs to restore their health and well-being. Importantly, federally-funded research also supports training of the next generation of scientists who grow the U.S. innovation pipeline. It is their skills and expertise that will ensure America maintains its position at the forefront of global competitiveness in science and technology research at a time when our nation stands to lose leadership in the world.<sup>1</sup>

The federal government's commitment to biomedical research is not only important in providing hope for patients and families but is also important to voters in general. According to [polling](#) of registered voters in March 2026, 96 percent of voters agreed that it is important for the federal government to fund medical research. Additionally, 95 percent of voters felt it is important for the United States to be a global leader in medical research. Voters are also deeply concerned about what cuts to federal funding for biomedical research would mean to the health of their loved ones. We urge Congress to continue their efforts to deny extreme cuts to key funding agencies during the completion of the FY 2026 appropriations bills. FASEB is grateful to Congress for providing NIH with a \$415 million increase over FY 2025, and the decision to decrease funding for NSF by a more manageable 3-4 percent cut compared to the proposed 57 percent cut to its budget requested by the administration for FY 2026, which would have been catastrophic.

### **Forward Funding or Multiyear Awards Would Shrink U.S. Research Capacity While Incurring the Loss of New Grants**

NIH proposes to fully fund the outyear commitments of all competing research project grant awards as part of the initial grant obligation in accordance with the administration's multiyear funding directive.<sup>2</sup> Multiyear funding awards are made to provide full funding for grants up front for all years of a grant's project period, which can span several years. The result is a reduction in the number of total NIH grants awarded in any given year, triggering publicly expressed concern from the [life sciences community](#) and congress that this policy will [significantly reduce](#) the number of grants NIH can fund in FY 2026 and beyond.<sup>3</sup> FASEB was gratified to see that Congress agreed in the FY 2026 appropriations bill funding NIH (section 240) that multiyear funding would be capped at the level NIH used in FY 2025.<sup>4</sup> We urge Congress to consider similar actions for FY 2027.

FASEB believes implementation of multiyear funding policies should be done in a way that is least disruptive to the research ecosystem and the economy over an extended window of time. We are asking Congress to appropriate the full cost of any shift in award outlays due to multiyear funding, so the funding rates of new proposals do not decline. This would also preserve the economic return on the public investment in biomedical and biological research. Without

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<sup>1</sup> [Recommended Research Funding, Train the next generation of scientists from diverse backgrounds.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Executive Summary of NIH Budget for FY 2027, page 21](#)

<sup>3</sup> [ACT-for-NIH-Multi-Year-Funding-One-Page-October-2025.pdf](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, Division B- Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 page. 290](#)



Congressional intervention for FY 2027, there will be a reduction in the number of new grants available to early career investigators and other scientists seeking to establish and maintain their independent labs. This will have a lasting negative impact on research progress for generations.

### **Capping Indirect Costs Rates at 15 percent**

The administration continues its efforts from 2025 to cap facilities and administrative costs (also known as indirect cost rates) at 15 percent in the FY 2027 president's budget and proposes to eliminate the general provision in the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS), and Related Agencies Appropriations bill regarding changes to NIH facilities and administrative costs policies.<sup>5</sup> The administration is referencing the language in the enacted FY 2026 LHHS appropriations bill (section 224) where lawmakers concluded that these negotiated rates are essential for supporting research at universities, nonprofit laboratories, medical centers and other entities eligible for federal research awards and is key to sustaining U.S. leadership in scientific research and technological innovation. Congress also acknowledged that there was room for improvement in the system used to identify and recover indirect cost rates under the Uniform Grant Guidance, particularly with respect to the need for greater transparency into these costs and their belief that the [Financial Accountability in Research \(FAIR\)](#) model advanced by the [Joint Associations Group on Indirect Costs \(JAG\)](#), merits further consideration.

Furthermore, the FY 2026 LHHS Appropriations Bill prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services or any department or agency from developing or implementing a modified approach to facilities and administrative costs.<sup>6</sup> FASEB encourages Congress to retain this same provision in the FY 2027 LHHS Appropriations Bill.

The issue of an arbitrary cap on indirect costs has also been considered by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit which issued a permanent injunction on January 5, 2026 in [their unanimous opinion](#) to prevent the NIH from imposing a 15 percent cap on indirect cost reimbursements for research grants. FASEB supports the ongoing efforts of Congress to work with JAG and others to create a new approach to identify and recover indirect costs, and continued review of the FAIR model developed as a response to concerns about the complexity and transparency of facilities and administrative costs.

The final FY 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill that funded NSF also made it clear (in section 542) that the agency shall continue to apply the negotiated indirect cost rates in section 200.414 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, including with respect to the approval of deviations from negotiated indirect cost rates, to the same extent and in the same manner as such negotiated indirect cost rates were applied in fiscal year 2024. Additional language noted that none of the funds appropriated in this or prior Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts, or otherwise made available to the

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<sup>5</sup> [NIH Director's Letter on the FY2027 budget page 4.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [FY 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, Division D- Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations, Act, 2026, page 279](#)



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Department of Commerce, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation may be used to develop, modify, or implement changes to such fiscal year 2024 negotiated indirect cost rates.<sup>7</sup> FASEB appreciates the inclusion of the language in the FY 2026 appropriations bills that prevents federal agencies from altering indirect cost rates and urges that it be retained in FY 2027.

### Conclusion

[FASEB strongly believes that the federal government](#) should commit to robust, predictable, and sustained funding increases for science agencies that support investigator-led research initiatives. Recent polling demonstrates that a majority of voters also believe the federal government does not invest enough in medical research, providing further justification and support for rejecting the cuts proposed for NIH and NSF in the administration's FY 2027 budget request.<sup>8</sup>

FASEB applauds Congress' prior efforts to reconsider administration proposals that would damage the scientific ecosystem, including cutting federal funding for research, slowing the awarding of new research grants, accelerating multiyear funding at the expense of new research grants, and proposing caps to facilities and administrative costs that do not consider stakeholder input. We are grateful for the longstanding bipartisan congressional commitment to supporting federal investment in biological and biomedical research and appreciate the opportunity to provide our views on the FY 2027 administration budget request

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<sup>7</sup> [Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026- Division A —COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026](#) section 542, 140 STAT. 61

<sup>8</sup> [New Polling Reveals Strong, Sustained Bipartisan Opposition to Medical Research Funding Cuts](#)