

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2025

Jay Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

RE: NIH Guidance on Indirect Cost Rates for Grant Recipients

Dear Director Bhattacharya:

Congratulations on your successful confirmation as the next Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We look forward to working with you to advance critical research that will improve the lives of countless Floridians and Americans. However, as members of the Florida Congressional delegation, we also write to express concern about the impact of NIH guidance (NOT-OD-25-068) stating that existing and new grant recipients will be subject to a 15 percent indirect cost rate. This policy would curtail the groundbreaking and life-saving research being done across the state of Florida by colleges and universities, cancer centers, health systems and more. Such a drastic cut in federal support for biomedical research would diminish our nation's research capacity, slow scientific gains and harm access to patients and families across the country who benefit from NIH-funded research. While a nationwide temporary restraining order is in place, we implore you to permanently rescind this guidance.

We are proud to represent a dynamic and growing state, with researchers and institutions performing cutting-edge medical research. In Fiscal Year 2024 alone, the NIH awarded \$869 million in grants and contracts to the state of Florida, which had a \$2.82 billion economic impact and supported over 14,600 jobs. NIH funding has allowed institutions across the state to study early detection of Alzheimer's disease, decode the human genome, utilize artificial intelligence for medical diagnoses, enhance preventive treatments to lower stroke risk and much more.

Indirect costs are an essential part of this federally funded research, supporting high-quality research with robust oversight mechanisms, critical safety measures and necessary infrastructure. There is a substantial cost associated with conducting research on behalf of the federal government, including state-of the art laboratory space and equipment, high-speed data processing, secure data storage, hazardous waste disposal, patient safety protocols, and utilities.

This cap will have an outsized impact on small and mid-sized research institutions in Florida, who do not readily have access to means to cover lost facilities and administrative costs. With fewer dollars, laboratory space and equipment will quickly age and become obsolete and thorough compliance with federal regulations will become more difficult with insufficient administrative personnel. And if our research institutions begin to turn away, or not compete for, larger biomedical research awards because they lack the infrastructure to conduct the work, it will lead to fewer new drug

therapies, medical technologies, clinical trials and jobs that support an ever-growing biomedical base in the state of Florida.

Indirect costs are also essential to keeping the United States a global leader in biomedical research, allowing grant recipients to execute their research in a safe, efficient and effective manner. It would be unwise to slow the pace of scientific progress and cede American dominance to our foreign competitors like the Chinese Communist Party, at a time when they are investing significantly in their own research and education initiatives. NIH research funding provides a pathway to finding treatments and cures for diseases, and a pathway to higher paying jobs for Floridians.

We urge you to rescind the guidance and ask that any future proposed changes to facilities and administrative costs reimbursed by NIH will be done in consultation with Congress and with stakeholders across the spectrum without sacrificing the ability of our research institutions to keep America first.

Sincerely,



Kathy Castor
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Lois Frankel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Frederica S. Wilson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



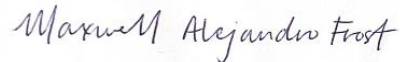
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