



Support NIH and AHRQ Funding

Issue

President Trump's FY'18 "skinny" budget request included a \$5.8 billion reduction in NIH funding (to a FY'18 amount of \$25.9 billion), as well as consolidating the work of AHRQ within NIH with no additional funding (reducing the effective NIH research budget to \$25.6 billion).

The American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) strongly urges you to reject these proposed cuts to both the NIH as well as the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Background

Each year, billions of dollars are spent treating the causes and symptoms of food, drug and skin allergy, immunodeficiency, and asthma. Multiple studies have found that NIH investments in research focused on a particular area stimulate increased private investment in the same area. A \$1.00 increase in public basic research stimulates an additional \$8.38 of industry R&D investment after 8 years. A \$1.00 increase in public clinical research stimulates an additional \$2.35 of industry R&D investment after 3 years.

Through NIH supported research, we have the opportunity to identify and develop life-saving and life-improving treatments for chronic conditions such as food, drug and skin allergy, immunodeficiency and asthma. One recent example occurred this past October when researchers supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) announced promising results from an NIH sponsored clinical trial assessing the efficacy and value of an intervention for treating children and young adults with peanut allergies.

More recently, an NIAID-sponsored expert panel issued clinical guidelines to help healthcare providers educate parents and caregivers on the benefit of early introduction of peanut-containing foods to infants as a way to prevent children from developing a peanut allergy.

These are just two of many examples of what Congress and the American people can expect from supporting the NIH and medical research.

AHRQ is the only federal research agency with the sole purpose of producing evidence to make health care safer; of higher quality; more accessible, equitable, and affordable; and to ensure that the evidence is understood and used. AHRQ-funded research, tools, and datasets are being used in health settings across the nation to help us understand and improve a complex and costly

health system so that better outcomes for more people at greater value can be achieved. AHRQ's research and data help Americans get greater value when it comes to health care.

We were encouraged when a bi-partisan group of 217 Members endorsed the request for at least \$36 billion in NIH funding for FY'18. We also appreciate that a bi-partisan group of 43 Members wrote the House Appropriations Committee to request \$364 million in FY'18 for AHRQ.

Recommendation

The American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI) asks that you ensure adequate federal research funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

For NIH, ACAAI requests an increase of at least \$2 billion above fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations to account for inflation. For AHRQ, ACAAI urges you to restore the agency's funding to at least \$364 million in FY'18.