



Take Action: Grant Funding at Risk

Congress is in the process of finalizing the FY2026 Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, which funds NIH.

The Academy is aware that the Office of Management and Budget, with the help of Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL), could issue a veto threat on the bill if it contains the Senate Appropriations language that limits the number of multi-year awards to no more than NIH made in FY24.

While this may seem like an in-the-weeds issue, the overuse of MYF grants can have a devastating impact on the research enterprise. The shift to MYF could sharply lower the odds that a scientist's proposal will succeed, reduce support for early-career researchers, and weaken oversight on grants.

We saw what happened when the NIH used the MYF grant mechanism this fall. Staff at NIH used MYF to spend appropriated funds before the September 30 deadline. What we saw was a drop in funded grants to individual investigators. For example, NCI funded 1 in 25 grants, versus the anticipated 1 in 10.

Continuing the policy in future years will result in a staggering years-long dip in the number of grants NIH funds, even in the absence of budget cuts. Some modeling estimates suggest it would take about 6 years to return to 2024 award levels. By then, the research workforce will be so diminished that it can not support that amount of science.

If you live in AL or OK, we are asking that you contact Congressman Aderholt's (R-AL) office and Congressman Cole's (R-OK) office and ask that they accept the Senate language on multi-year funding grants in the final FY2026 NIH appropriations bill.

Additionally, we encourage you to bring this issue to the attention of your colleagues and ask that they do the same.

Here are the best ways to reach their offices.

Congressman Aderholt: You can call his office at 202-225-4876 or email Megan Medley, his appropriations/health legislative aide, at megan.medley@mail.house.gov.

Congressman Cole: You can call his office at 202-225-6165 or email Lauren Ketchum, his health legislative aide, at lauren.ketchum@mail.house.gov.

Here are some example talking points for AL but the same language can be used for OK:

- I am a constituent and the Chair of the Radiology Department at UAB (OU).
- I'm very supportive of the language in the FY2026 Senate Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Bill that limits the use of multi-year funding grants at the National Institutes of Health.
- I encourage the Chairman to accept this language as the negotiations on a final bill proceed.
- Otherwise, research at UAB (OU) will suffer. Widescale use of MYF grants means fewer independent researchers will be funded. As a result, labs will shut down, and research will slow.
- UAB (OU) has made such tremendous progress in medical research, from the researchers we've been able to attract to the innovative research and the renowned clinical education and care we provide. Allowing NIH to implement a widespread MYF grant process will grind all of UAB's (OU's) advancements to a halt.

[Here](#) is a one-page primer, and [here](#) is a recent article on the issue.