

Proposed FY18 Budget Threatens the Health and Wellbeing of All Americans

Investing in NIH Would Put America First

May 23, 2017 – The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research issued the following statement calling on Congress to reject the President’s proposed FY 2018 budget.

The Administration’s proposal to gut funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by nearly 22 percent (\$7.2 billion) will dramatically impact the lives of all Americans by slowing research to find treatments and cures for illnesses and diseases suffered by patients nationwide, a short-sighted policy that hurts everyone. Cuts to NIH of such unprecedented magnitude will diminish funding of current research grants, as well as those in the future, hurting the US economy in every region and community and depressing economic growth.

The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), as well as many other Institutes and Centers at NIH, support imaging research at universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and other institutions in all 50 states, fueling local and regional economies by creating jobs and catalyzing new industries. For decades, the federal commitment to scientific discovery has strengthened our country’s competitiveness in a global market that is actively working to unseat the U.S. as the world’s leader in medical research. To keep America healthy and strong we must bolster, rather than undermine, the nation’s medical research capacity.

The work of the NIH improves patient outcomes and allows people to live fuller and more productive lives, even when faced with life-threatening diseases. The federal government has made a huge commitment and investment in scientific research and discovery that has made the US the world-leader in medical research and spurred commercial biomedical entrepreneurship. NIH-funded research has reduced coronary heart disease and stroke fatalities by 70 percent, infant mortality has declined by 40 percent in the last 20 years and led to a 30 percent decline in chronic disabilities among seniors. The return on investment in human terms alone is immeasurable and has been steadily improving the lives of Americans. Amazing NIH research breakthroughs have made it an agency that works and has the bipartisan support of Members of Congress.

The Academy stands with its coalition partners, congressional supporters and the American people to continue to support sustainable, robust budget increases for NIH research. Without it, the advances we have come to expect and depend on from cutting edge medical research will be greatly harmed and life-saving work will be delayed or lost entirely. We call upon the Congress to support a \$2.0 billion increase for the NIH to ensure the maximum benefit for the health of our people and our economy continues.