Dear Academy Board,

The **House** Appropriations Committee has released the bill text of its FY26 LHHS spending bill. The text can be found here, and the Committee's summary of the bill is here.

In this draft Bill, there is **NOT a cut to NIH**. It appears to flat fund NIH at FY24 levels ($48 billion). If this draft holds, it reflects a rejection of the administration's proposals to drastically cut NIH funding by 40%. It also does **NOT** consolidate NIH ICs.

"Provides $48 billion for the National Institutes of Health, maintaining America's edge in basic biomedical research for cures to cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and rare diseases, and supports the Trump Administration's priority of increasing research for other chronic diseases impacting Americans. Providing $48 billion in funding to support biomedical research, a necessary counter to China's growing threat in basic science research."

You may recall that the **Senate** Bill has a $400 million increase for NIH (+1%).

What happens next?

First, the House subcommittee markup is at 5pm today. Second, on September 9th, the full House will markup this bill. Then, the House and the Senate Committees will come together in "Conference" to work out their differences. In this case, as we know it, the difference for NIH is flat funding (House) or a 400M (1%) increase (Senate).

We still do not know if Congress will pass the overall budget before Sept. 30th or if we will end up with a CR. As we learn more, we will disseminate, but for now, it appears that we may have dodged the cuts we had all been fearing would come. A CR would hold the FY24 levels for NIH.

HHS, AHRQ, and CDC:

1. The House draft Bill includes a 6% overall **cut** to HHS, the proposed elimination of AHRQ, significant cuts to CDC, and consolidation of some CDC programs.
2. The House draft Bill **cuts** ARPA-H from 1.5B to 945M
3. The House draft Bill **caps** F&A at 30%

4. The House subcommittee will markup its bill today, Tuesday, September 2, at 5:00 p.m. You can view the hearing here.

Keep in mind:

- We need Congress to pay attention to the actions of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and efforts by Russel Vought to interfere with NIH priority setting. NIH must fund the most meritorious science.
- Ensure that the distribution of a 5-year award into one year does not negatively impact the number of new grants awarded.
- Limit impoundment (which is illegal) and additional terminations at NIH
- NIH grants are currently subject to political review (*review of a grant after scientific peer review by a political appointee with no scientific background*)
- Congress can act to prevent or limit the actions of OMB, but they will likely need to make this statutory language for it to hold or have an impact. It is unclear if Congress has the desire to do this.

*Thank you for your interest in these Academy updates. If you are not already part of a supporting Member department/society/company, please consider supporting our extensive advocacy efforts on behalf of this community through Membership. Please view this brief clip about The Value of the Academy, and view our supportive membership here. For additional membership details, we welcome you to connect with Josie Wilkinson Miller, at jwilkinson@acadrad.org.