

## CALL TO ACTION FROM MICHIGAN RESEARCH SCIENTISTS:

We “strongly urge you to reach out to your US House Representatives and US Senators regarding the attack on the NIH and US academic research institutions. The specific new policy of reducing NIH grant indirect funds to 15% is economically disastrous for the country. It is super important to advocate to your elected officials to oppose this policy, and to work to reverse it.

You can find your representatives and their contact information here:

- <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
- <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

### Possible Talking Points:

For every \$1 of research funded by the NIH, the return on investment is about \$2.5. That is an astounding return on investment. As an amazing example, the Human Genome Project, which cost the US government \$3 billion, is estimated to have made over \$900 billion in economic growth through the biotechnology industry.

How does this work? Universities get awarded grants for research. For every \$1 of research dollars, the NIH also gives about 50 - 60 cents for university facilities. These are called indirect expenses. They are important because a researcher can't do their job without a building. These buildings are specialized: rodent housing rooms, negative pressure airways, biochemical fume management, specialized water supplies etc etc. The list of specialized facilities goes on and on. The Trump administration will now put a cap at 15 cents for the facilities for every \$1 of research dollars.

This is not economically viable for any major university. Every state university in the country will suffer, and every major private university will as well. Thus, the economic ramifications of the Trump cap on NIH indirects are unthinkable and immense. If this policy holds, there is a real danger that the United States biotechnology industry will fall behind the rest of the world. The biotech industry draws talent from universities, new technology from universities, and sells their products to universities. All of that economic business will be severely damaged.

Moreover, the indirect dollars received from the NIH enable clinical trials for children with cancer. These clinical trials rely on university research staff whose salaries are paid through indirect dollars. I fear that clinical trials for children with DIPG and other cancers will be endangered and may need to close because of this new policy on NIH funding.