



University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins and Ranking Member Murray,

On behalf of the University of Colorado (CU) and our Anschutz Medical, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver campuses, we appreciate the opportunity to submit the following statement regarding your bipartisan hearing, *Biomedical Research: Keeping America's Edge in Innovation*.

The University of Colorado is a premier public research university with four campuses: the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. With more than 67,000 students and 7,300 full-time instructional faculty members, CU is the largest institution of higher education in the state of Colorado. With an annual budget of \$6.3 billion, CU generates an economic impact of \$19.4 billion annually for the state. CU researchers attracted \$1.7 billion in sponsored research funding and gifts in fiscal year 2023-24. CU has launched nearly 300 startups, and its academic prestige is marked by its five Nobel laureates, 10 MacArthur “genius” Fellows, 21 astronauts and 21 Rhodes Scholars.

For fiscal year (FY) 2024, CU campuses received nearly \$420 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding from over 1,000 awards – interacting with almost all 27 NIH institutes.¹ Research conducted by CU investigators helps drive clinical care and treatments for Coloradans at our clinical partners, such as UCHHealth and the University of Colorado Hospital, Children’s Hospital of Colorado, and Denver Health, among other health centers in Colorado. Additionally, programs at CU campuses train our future biomedical workforce, spin out new biomedical companies, and partner with local health centers to address comorbidities in Colorado.

These grants include significant partnerships with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute on Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), and the National Institute of Aging (NIA) to name a few. For FY 2024, partnerships like the ones established by CU supported

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). NIH awards by location and Organization - NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (report). National Institutes of Health. <https://report.nih.gov/award/index.cfm>

nearly 7,000 jobs for NIH extramural research and \$1.59 billion in economic activity in Colorado.²

Additionally, CU has large-scale partnerships with additional biomedical research agencies such as the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), the Defense Health Agency Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (DHA RDT&E) Programs, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Prosthetic Research Program, and other Department Health and Human Services such as the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

We believe any legislative efforts to reform biomedical research should focus on supporting high-quality science, improving efficiency, accelerating medical progress, promoting the next generation of researchers and clinicians, and strengthening U.S. competitiveness in the biomedical sciences. It is appropriate to examine ways to make federal agencies' administrative functions more efficient. However, realignment must incorporate researcher and patient perspectives, scientific convergence, and the current practice of medicine. Any changes to any biomedical research structure should be conducted in a phased approach that provides clarity for investigators and grantees.

The partnership between the federal government and research universities that emerged out of World War II is a significant reason why our country is the envy of the world and the global innovation leader. This partnership – whereby the federal government, through competitively awarded grants, funds university research on behalf of the nation – has yielded major scientific advances, including tremendous improvements in human health, and helped train America's most impactful scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs.

Any reforms to biomedical research should build on the current partnerships between the federal government and research institutions and recognize the institutional support provided for these grants. Universities are not fully reimbursed for the expenses they incur to provide the infrastructure and support to conduct federally supported research on their campuses. Constraints on this support will prevent institutions from developing life-saving treatments and cures. We encourage you to maintain language that prevents any administration from setting an arbitrary rate for Facility and Administrative reimbursements, also known as indirect costs, at NIH. We urge the Committee to adopt identical language for all research agencies.

With the Appropriations Committee beginning work on fiscal year 2026 legislation, we urge you to provide at least \$51.3 billion for the NIH, \$1.7 billion for ARPA-H, \$3 billion for DHA RDT&E, \$1.2 billion for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program, \$362.8 million for NIOSH, and robust funding for HRSA, CDC, and SAMHSA programs. Additionally, we urge

² NIH in your State - Colorado. United For Medical Research. (2024, March 11). <https://www.unitedformedicalresearch.org/nih-in-your-state/>

the Committee to ensure that appropriated funds for biomedical research are spent by federal agencies in accordance with Congressional intent.

As you continue your bipartisan efforts to ensure our nation remains a leader in biomedical research, our experts are here to provide advice and opinions. For further questions, please contact Brett Roude, Assistant Vice President of Federal Relations and Health Policy, at brett.roude@cu.edu or 202-281-9301.

Sincerely,



Todd Saliman
President
CU System



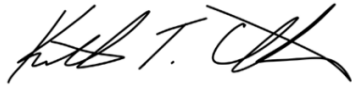
Donald Elliman
Chancellor
CU Anschutz Medical Campus



Justin Schwartz, PhD
Chancellor
CU Boulder



Jennifer Sobanet, Ed.D.
Chancellor
CU Colorado Springs



Kenneth Christensen PhD
Chancellor
CU Denver

Cc: Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator, Colorado
Cc: John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senator, Colorado