



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
IMMUNOLOGISTS

AAI Statement on the House FY 2024 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill

Issued by AAI Committee on Public Affairs Chair Gretchen Diehl, Ph.D.

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Last Friday, the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee approved its fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations bill. AAI is deeply disappointed to see that the bill contains just \$43 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for FY 2024, a cut of \$3.8 billion (8%) from the FY 2023 level. AAI is particularly alarmed by the bill's disproportionately large cut of \$1.5 billion (~23%) to the budget of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). These funding reductions would stifle innovation and do great harm to the biomedical research enterprise. While AAI appreciates that Congress is dealing with significant fiscal constraints, increased investment in NIH is not only critical for improving the health of the American people but also for driving economic growth, as NIH directly or indirectly creates hundreds of thousands of jobs annually.

AAI is also concerned that the bill contains just \$500 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), a reduction of \$1 billion (66.7%) from last year's funding level. Such a cut would significantly limit the exciting high-risk, high-impact research that the agency could support to take on some of society's most pressing health challenges.

As articulated in the recent [testimony](#) submitted by AAI to the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, AAI will continue to advocate for an increase in the NIH base budget for FY 2024. Sustained, predictable, and robust NIH funding increases are vital to capitalizing on the vast scientific opportunities on the horizon, making much needed investments in strengthening the research environment for trainees and early career researchers, and ensuring that the U.S. remains the world's preeminent leader in science. Separately, AAI will also continue to advocate for substantial funding to support ARPA-H.

AAI urges bipartisan action in Congress to prioritize investment in NIH's lifesaving scientific research and reject these proposed cuts.