



NIH Funding Cuts Compromise U.S. and Global Health

The President's proposed budget for FY 2008 fails to adequately fund the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This places at risk our progress in fighting diseases, both at home and abroad. The rising toll of diseases with a massive global prevalence, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria, affects economic growth and political stability in countries around the globe. These diseases also pose health threats to us at home. Yet, our medical research and development that is focused on global health is grossly underfunded.

We urge Congress to increase NIH funding by 6.7 percent above 2007 funding levels and to strengthen NIH's commitment to global health research.

Increasing NIH's Budget by 6.7 Percent

- The President's budget request would place NIH's inflation-adjusted funding at 13 percent below 2004 levels – that's \$9.447 billion *below* what would have been needed to keep pace with biomedical inflation.
- The President's request is \$73 million below the 2007 funding approved by Congress, and \$1.143 billion short of the amount needed for NIH to keep pace with the projected 3.7 percent rise in biomedical inflation from FY 2007 to FY 2008.
- Actual funding for NIH is \$300 million less than it appears to be because the President's budget would use NIH as the vehicle for appropriating funds for a pre-existing, non-NIH commitment.
- A **6.7 percent increase** would adjust NIH funding for inflation and add a modest 3 percent rise to help make up for losses in inflation-adjusted funding since 2004. This would bring NIH's budget to \$30.869 billion in FY 2008, \$2.011 billion above the President's request.

Increasing Focus on Global Health

- It is in our interest to advance global health, but NIH investment in global health has fallen short. The for-profit drug industry will not step in when the market for products is primarily the developing world. So, government must take a leadership role in both research and development – moving products into practice.
- There are 9 million cases of active TB annually, yet NIH spends just 0.5 percent of its budget on TB research. There are 500 million cases of malaria; NIH spends 0.3 percent of its budget on malaria research. Forty million people worldwide are infected with HIV, but NIH spends just 2 percent of its budget on research related to an HIV/AIDS vaccine.
- Spending on global health is inadequate given the burden of these diseases worldwide, their economic and political impact, and the potential threat they pose to Americans.
- Congressional report language urging NIH to increase its focus on global health research, including research that moves products into practice, would benefit America and the world.