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## ASPET Statement on FY2026 Budget Request

With the release of its FY2026 budget, President Trump and his administration have shown they do not truly comprehend the life-changing impact of science, or the role that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plays in it.

The recently released Presidential Budget proposes \$29.3 billion for NIH, a 38% decrease from FY2025. This cut would put the NIH budget at levels last seen in 2007. ASPET is appalled by the Presidential Budget release and the proposed destruction of NIH and the U.S. biomedical research enterprise. NIH describes its mission as “Turning discovery into health”; 38% budget cuts are not compatible with being able to carry out this mission.

These proposed cuts do not happen in a vacuum. Each agency has a hand in crafting this budget, yet the Director of the National Institutes of Health, Jayanta Bhattacharya, has said nothing publicly to stop these devastating cuts. The head of the world’s preeminent biomedical research enterprise is silent while the President proposes to slash funding to watch the enterprise topple. While the President’s budget is not law, it offers a disturbing roadmap that Congress must refuse to follow.

We urge Congress to exercise its authority in appropriating funds and uphold the “power of the purse” as prescribed in the Constitution. Congress needs to call the administration and demand responses to what is occurring at NIH and express their concerns about the damage being wrought by the Administration. Congress has the power to call administration members, including Secretary Kennedy and Director Bhattacharya, to explain to Congress and the public what is occurring within NIH and by whose direction. Congress has this power, and it needs to exercise it now. The public has a right to know how their health is being jeopardized.

ASPET calls on its members to tell their Congressional representatives to reject the cuts proposed by the Presidential Budget. ASPET members can ensure the voice of the pharmacology community is heard by responding to this [action alert](#).

The President’s budget and actions taken by his administration have set the scientific research enterprise on a negative trajectory that, if not corrected, will result in the United States no longer being the preeminent nation for biomedical research and lose the economic benefits that come with advancing American-made healthcare innovations and treatments. Americans deserve better health and treatments that cannot be achieved with these actions.

Transforming Discoveries into Therapies

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