The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

November 10, 2026

Dear House Speaker, House Minority Leader, Senate Majority Leader, and Senate Minority Leader:

The undersigned 71 organizations, representing public health, patients, clinicians and biomedical researchers, thank you for passing a Continuing Resolution that prevents the White House Office of Management and Budget from implementing the proposed Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance, and keeps federal biomedical research programs operating until December 11. This proposed regulation would undermine Congress's constitutional role in directing the use of taxpayer dollars by making unprecedented and comprehensive changes to the rules for federal grants across federal agencies, including those within the Department of Health and Human Services, like the National Institutes of Health and its National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). In the strongest possible terms, we urge you to act by December 11 to enact a long-term policy that: 1) blocks the proposed regulation; and 2) protects against any executive order, regulations, or guidance that would put political appointees in charge of NIH grantmaking or making binding oversight decisions.

Article 1 of the Constitution gives Congress the ultimate authority on how federal appropriations are spent and administrations are expected to carry out these decisions. This proposed rule gives current and future administrations leeway to ignore those decisions. Thanks to Congressional action, patients with serious and life-threatening diseases and local communities have benefitted from peer-reviewed, evidence-based NIAID-funded research that has led to breakthroughs in public health practice, infectious diseases and allergy prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, as intended by Congress. If the proposed rule is implemented, progress to develop new breakthroughs will be hindered.

NIAID plays an essential role in addressing the impacts of allergy and asthma on human well-being and infectious disease threats such as antimicrobial-resistant infections, vector-borne diseases, HIV, viral hepatitis, sepsis, foodborne illness, tuberculosis, influenza, emerging pathogens and other infections that can seriously complicate cancer chemotherapy, organ transplantation and other medical procedures. NIAID supports research that helps explain how human behavior, social conditions and structural factors influence infectious disease prevention, treatment uptake, adherence and health outcomes. Additionally, NIAID funding is critical to training the public health and scientific workforce. Students in NIAID-funded training programs and laboratories go on to work in public health agencies, clinical settings, academic research, and industry.

This proposed regulation would dramatically alter the way NIAID funding is allocated — placing grant decisions in the hands of political appointees instead of scientific experts and prioritizing political alignment over scientific merit and patient need. This will cause significant upheaval in medical research as biomedical discoveries take an average of 10 to 15 years from initial laboratory discovery to availability for patient use and political priorities typically change with every new president, if not more frequently.

Further, political appointees often do not have the expertise necessary to determine which grant proposals are the most scientifically rigorous and most likely to deliver meaningful results for patients. The proposed changes, along with the ability for grants to be canceled at any time, for any reason, will make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to launch and sustain the type of research needed to deliver new vaccines, diagnostic tests and treatments given the significant infrastructure, staffing, expertise and time these studies require. The proposed rule would also likely have far ranging impacts beyond the intended goals of the current Administration. The unprecedented authority that would be granted to OMB and federal agencies by this proposed rule would also be conveyed to future Administrations, which could use this authority for other policy goals and preferences.

Prohibiting the use of grant funds to publish findings in scientific journals and significantly limiting the use of grant funds for scientific conferences will severely limit the ability of

researchers to collaborate with other researchers, clinicians and patients and share their findings with the public. This will dramatically curtail scientific progress and greatly slow the pace at which research findings become lifesaving new interventions for patients.

Taken together, these changes will drive current and future researchers away from research or away from the U.S., leaving our nation without the scientific workforce and infrastructure we need to drive the innovation needed to improve the lives of Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and we strongly urge you to work with relevant committees and your colleagues to avoid this future by passing legislation that prohibits implementation of this proposed rule permanently, or at least for an extended period of time.

Sincerely,

#MEAction
AIDS Action Baltimore
Alliance for Positive Change
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Immunologists
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Psychological Association Services
American Society for Virology
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Thoracic Society
APLA Health
ASM
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Autoimmune Association
AVAC
Bateman Horne Center of Excellence
Biophysical Society

Cornell Reproductive Sciences Center
Cornell University
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Entomological Society of America
Fast-Track Health
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Five Horizons Health Services
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Gerontological Society of America
Global Health Technologies Coalition
HealthHIV
HIV Medicine Association
HRO
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Immunize.org
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Lupus Foundation of America
Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California
NASTAD
National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA)
National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR)
National Coalition for LGBTQ Health
National Eczema Association
National Environmental Health Association
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Working Positive Coalition
NMAC
Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases
Open Medicine Foundation
Peggy Lillis Foundation for C. diff Education & Advocacy
Penn State Health/Penn State College of Medicine
Prevent Blindness
Rockies and High Plains Vector Borne Diseases Training and Evaluation Center
SAGE
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Save HIV funding campaign
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society for Scholarly Publishing
Solve M.E.

TB Alliance
The AIDS Institute
Treatment Action Group (TAG)