

# United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510-1304

May 23, 2025

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya  
Director  
National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Director Bhattacharya:

On Tuesday, June 10, 2025, you will appear before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies to discuss the Administration's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which would slash medical research funding by \$18 billion, or 40 percent.

During his appearance before the Subcommittee on May 20, 2025, I asked HHS Secretary Kennedy about reported cancellations and pauses to previously awarded NIH grants. He did not appear to have any familiarity with these disruptions to medical research funding, which raises serious concerns about the lack of accountability, oversight, and process for the reportedly hundreds, if not thousands, of affected research grants.

Therefore, in advance of your hearing, I request that you provide me with a comprehensive list of all NIH grants and awards that have either been cancelled or paused since January 20, 2025, related to ALS, Alzheimer's Disease, childhood cancers, and congenital heart defect research. For each, please include an explanation as to why you decided that these grants or awards were no longer worthy of NIH funding, despite prior agency review and approval through a rigorous peer review process. This limited and defined request does not represent the totality of cancelled or paused research grants pertaining to many other diseases and conditions that impact families nationwide. But, given how vast the devastation to medical research funding has been over the past few months, and the limited time we have to discuss such matters, I have limited my inquiry to these few devastating diagnoses.

I request that you provide this information to my office no later than Friday, June 6, 2025. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and I look forward to discussing these terminated or paused grants with you on June 10, 2025. Families battling ALS, Alzheimer's, childhood cancers, and congenital heart defects deserve this basic level of transparency.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator