

September 22, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 The Capitol
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 The Capitol
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Collins, and Vice Chair Murray:

The 164 undersigned national organizations write to express our support for the work of the Joint Associations Group on Indirect Costs (JAG)'s effort to develop a new, more transparent model for ensuring that institutions' essential research costs are adequately supported. We also express appreciation for language supporting the JAG effort included in some of the FY 2026 annual appropriations bills and accompanying reports and ask that your committees continue to include and strengthen language in the final spending bills supporting the JAG work and prohibiting the Office of Management and Budget from instituting arbitrary caps on costs essential to conducting high quality scientific research.

The federal government's investment in research leads to cures, transformative technologies, and new industries that save lives, improve Americans' health, create new jobs, and help ensure national security. Expenses like physical lab operation and maintenance, utility costs, security, data processing, regulatory compliance, and other needs (currently collectively known as "indirect costs" or "facilities and administrative" or "F&A" support) are essential to conduct research and inseparable from support for research itself. Efforts to cut support for these essential research costs undoubtedly would lead to less research in the U.S., undermining our global leadership in science and ultimately reducing the number of American-made scientific and technological driven innovations resulting from federally funded research.

We believe that the recommendations put forward by the JAG would enhance transparency and accountability associated with federally funded research without undermining overall support critical to American science. Informed by experts from within, across, and beyond the research community and designed to accommodate institutions of all types and sizes, the JAG's proposed Financial Accountability In Research (FAIR) model is a new approach to supporting essential

research costs. While granular details of the model will need to continue to be refined through its implementation process, we believe the core of the model addresses the themes that lawmakers and policymakers have prioritized while also ensuring American leadership in science and innovation continues.

We ask lawmakers to support the work that has been done by the JAG by:

- Including appropriations bill language supporting the work of the JAG and the development and implementation of the FAIR model by the executive branch;
- Blocking any federal agency or OMB action to cap or otherwise change existing negotiated F&A rates until they have worked with the stakeholder community to develop a clear plan for implementation of a new system based on the FAIR model framework;
- Ensuring at least a two-year transition period for agencies and institutions to make the necessary changes to an alternative model; and
- Preserving continued support for F&A expenses at existing levels until the new model is fully implemented.

These key elements, in addition to other relevant adjustments to research agency budget caps and related policies, will be essential to ensure the success of any new model for supporting research across the nation. We urge Congress to ensure that the legislative process affords these protections to ensure that the nation's research enterprise continues to thrive. Thank you, and please contact Tannaz Rasouli (trasouli@aamc.org) at the Association of American Medical Colleges with any questions.

Sincerely,

164 organizations as of September 22, 2025

AACTE: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Academy for Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research
ACPA-College Student Educators International
ACT for NIH
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers
ALS Association
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Nursing
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry (AACDP)

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Brain Tumor Association
American Chemical Society
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine
American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American Council of Learned Societies
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
American Neurological Association
American Pediatric Society (APS)
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society
American Psychological Association Services
American Roentgen Ray Society
American Society for Investigative Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Human Genetics
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Statistical Association
American Surgical Association
American Thoracic Society
Americans for Medical Progress
Association for Academic Pathology (AAPath)
Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
Association for Institutional Research
Association for Psychological Science

Association of Academic Chairs of Emergency Medicine
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of Academic Leaders of Neurology, formerly Association of University Professors
of Neurology
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of Bioethics Program Directors
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Governing Boards
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Population Centers
Association of Professors of Dermatology
Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC)
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology
Barth Syndrome Foundation
BDSRA Foundation
Biophysical Society
Cancer and Careers
Center for Endometriosis Care
Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance
Chris "CJ" Johnson Foundation Inc
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Pediatric Subspecialties
Council on Social Work Education
CURE Epilepsy
Cures Within Reach
Dravet Syndrome Foundation
Dysautonomia International
ECAN Esophageal Cancer Action Network
EDUCAUSE
Entomological Society of America
EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition
EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences

FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Gerontological Society of America
Good Days
HealthyWomen
Hope for HIE
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
IITC INC.
International Bipolar Foundation
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD)
International Society for Stem Cell Research
Kidney Cancer Association
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation
M-CM Network
Men's Health Network
METAvivor
NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR)
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association For Continence
National Council of University Research Administrators
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research
North American Vascular Biology Organization
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Patient-Led Research Collaborative
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research
Phi Beta Kappa Society
PKD Foundation
Population Association of America
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
Radiological Society of North America
Sjogren's Foundation
Social Affective Neuroscience Society (SANS)
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM)
Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Radiology
Society for Pediatric Research (SPR)

Society for Social Work and Research
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments
Society of Directors of Research in Medical Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Society of University Surgeons
SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics
Teaching Kitchen Collaborative
The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
The Judy Nicholson Foundation
The National Pancreas Foundation
The Obesity Society
The STARR Coalition
TMCF
TSC Alliance
United for Medical Research
UPCEA - The Online and Professional Education Association
v-ATPase Alliance
VHL Alliance
Vision Sciences Society
wAIHA Warriors