

August 29, 2025

Congressman Tom Cole
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cole,

On behalf of the [Gerontological Society of America](http://www.geron.org), thank you for planning to mark up and advance the Labor-Health and Human Services and Related Agencies (L-HHS) Fiscal Year 2026 spending bill, which would support many health and aging-related critical to Americans. This includes the important, life-saving work at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA). We also thank you for past support of these agencies.

GSA's mission is to foster excellence, innovation, and collaboration to advance aging research, education, practice, and policy. We envision meaningful lives as we age. GSA's 6,000 members include gerontologists, health professionals, behavioral & social scientists, biologists, demographers, economists, and many other disciplines. These experts study all facets of aging with a life-course orientation. The multidisciplinary nature of the GSA membership is a valued strength, enabling the Society to provide a rich perspective on the issues facing our population as we age. Our members come from more than 50 countries.

As we live longer and healthier lives, we celebrate the intramural and extramural ground-breaking research that the NIH and NIA contribute to understanding diseases and disorders that impact us all as we age. It is crucial that these agencies continue their leadership in this research that recognizes an interdisciplinary approach from the basic biology to the most effective medical and behavioral interventions leading to paths to cures and improvements for our increased healthspans. The missions of NIH and NIA aligns well with Congress' and the Administration's interest in making Americans healthier.

We request Congress **appropriate a minimum of \$51.3 billion for NIH**, consistent with the funding request from The Ad Hoc Medical Group and the Friends of NIA. Included in this funding, we request **\$4.75 billion for NIA**, consistent with the funding request from Friends of the NIA. Earlier this year, GSA submitted the attached Outside Witness Testimony to the subcommittee.

We also note that, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges, this year there has been almost \$5 billion less allocated in NIH research grants that has been committed to institutions across the U.S. compared to the year before. The full picture of federal research funding, however, is far more bleak for the institutions where the research is conducted and for patients and families, who rely on research innovations to improve their health and overall quality of life. The true shortfall in NIH funding far exceeds the nearly \$5 billion gap reported due to the thousands of grants terminated mid-project by the NIH, funds that have been frozen, and the inability for some institutions to draw down from these obligated funds.

Every dollar not awarded in grant funding or made unavailable to institutions equates to a clinical trial not started, fundamental research not conducted, next-generation scientists not trained, and scientific progress stalled. **We respectfully request you follow up with the Administration to fully implement the Fiscal Year 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, including funds appropriated for the National Institutes of Health.**

If you have any questions, please contact Patricia D'Antonio, Vice President of Policy and Professional Affairs at pdantonio@geron.org or 202-587-5880 or Jordan Miles, Director of Policy at jmiles@geron.org or 202-587-5884.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Appleby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James C. Appleby, BSPharm, MPH, ScD (Hon)
Chief Executive Officer