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Federal



NIH

Position: AMSNY supports NIH funding to the full authorized level in FY 2008, or at least a 6.7% increase in NIH funding for each of the next three years. NIH funding is particularly crucial to New York State's academic medical centers which are dependent on its support, especially in the fields of basic research. NIH alone now accounts for two-thirds of all federal support for research and development in colleges and universities.

Background: The doubling of investment in NIH yielded an unprecedented number of scientific advances that have improved health outcomes and contributed significantly to the economic growth of this nation. Unfortunately, since the doubling ended in 2003, funding for the NIH has failed to keep pace with biomedical inflation. Last year, the Senate unanimously supported legislation authorizing 8.7% annual increases in NIH funding for FY 07 and 08. The President's FY 2008 budget for NIH calls for \$28.621 billion in budget authority appropriated through the Labor-HHS appropriations committee. This is \$310 million (1.1%) below the level in the FY 2007 Final Joint Funding resolution (P.L. 110-5). The flat funding and slight reductions to the overall NIH budget have threatened the viability of any progress in research outcomes and prevents the development of new initiatives.

The impact has been so significant that many researchers are struggling to secure funding for their research and some young investigators have decided to abandon scientific research or do their work outside of the United States. As other states have substantially increased their number of researchers over time, NY has actually lost researchers. (New York Academy of Medicine, 2006) NIH funding has become an integral part of medical research and academic medical centers in New York State; AMSNY urges ongoing support for increased NIH funding.