

# THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF IMMUNOLOGISTS

Statement of Beth A. Garvy, PhD, National Institutes of Health (NIH) As the nation's largest funder of biomedical science, NIH supports cutting-edge research that is conducted in every state across this nation and that leads to urgently needed treatments and cures. The President's proposal, which calls for a devastating cut to the NIH budget of more than 27 percent, has been modified by an Addendum which identifies NIH as an Administration priority and recommends restoring this proposed cut. While AAI appreciates this revision, AAI is deeply disappointed that NIH would not see a meaningful budget increase, despite the availability of \$68 billion in new non-defense FY 2019 budget authority made possible by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

AAI is intensely grateful that Congress continues to recognize the need to provide funding that is robust, predictable, and sustained growth, as evidenced by the \$2 billion funding increases provided to NIH in both FY 2016 and FY 2017, and as approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee for FY 2018. AAI urges Congress to continue this laudable trend and approve an increase of at least \$2 billion for NIH for both FY 2018 and FY 2019.

AAI also strongly opposes proposed cuts to other federal agencies that support biomedical research or enable NIH-funded discoveries to advance human health.