

HJM 6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure urges the Congress of the United States of America to ensure strong annual federal funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to increase investment in cutting-edge medical research through grants from the NIH to research institutions. It resolves that a copy shall be sent to the President of the United States, the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The contributions of medical research have led to breakthrough discoveries improving health outcomes for patients and communities, securing global competitiveness in science, boosting job creation, educating the next generation of scientists, and strengthening economic growth.

Medical research, through the support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), serves a vital and unique role in the United States research enterprise, leading to cutting-edge preventative strategies and research for treatments and cures for longstanding challenges like cancer, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, sickle cell disease, obesity, and the mental health and opioid epidemics, as well as for emerging threats like yet unknown infectious diseases.

NIH funding has supported generations of medical researchers and their institutions, including over 300,000 nonfederal scientists and technical personnel at more than 2,500 medical schools, research universities, and facilities. NIH funding forms the foundation of America's biomedical research sector, which leads the world in research spending and innovation.

NIH funding has continued to decrease in recent years, severely affecting its ability to provide grants to research institutions, including key institutions in the State of Oregon. Without significant new investments, America's long-term leadership in biomedical research will be at risk. The effects of the decline in NIH funding and the resulting research and development deficit will be immense, and these effects will be increasingly felt over time because scientific discovery is cumulative.

The choice between more or less NIH funding today can thus mean the difference between whether or not scientists make a critical breakthrough several decades from now. Ensuring strong annual federal funding for the NIH is essential to support medical research and the discovery of vital treatments and cures, which improve the physical and mental health of all Americans. In order to secure America's position as the global leader in biomedical research for the foreseeable future, Congress must pursue significant new investments in cutting-edge medical research funded by NIH grants.