March 27, 2017

Dear Senator / Representative:

On behalf of the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY), which represents New York State’s 16 public and private medical schools, we would like to express our grave concerns over President Donald J. Trump’s Budget Blueprint. The President’s budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 proposed drastic cuts to federal budget, in particular to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These cuts would be devastating to the biomedical community in New York and we urge you to reject these proposals.

On March 16, 2017, President Trump released America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again that proposes severe cuts to the federal infrastructure. Of particular concern to AMSNY are the reductions in funding to HHS. President Trump has suggested slashing $12.6 billion, or 16.2%, from the overall HHS budget and would reduce funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by $5.8 billion, resulting in an 18% loss for that agency.

NIH funding is an essential element to New York State’s health care and economic sectors. Because of its high concentration of world-class research institutions, New York ranks 3rd in the nation for Congressional Districts with NIH awards, and likewise ranks 3rd among states in total NIH funding awards.

Currently, NIH funding supports more than 31,000 jobs at 176 institutions throughout New York State. A study commissioned by AMSNY found that for every federal research dollar invested in New York State’s medical schools, more than $7.50 in economic activity is generated within the state. If enacted, these budget cuts would be devastating to the biomedical community and economy of New York. New York currently receives about $2.2 billion in grant funding from NIH, almost 7% of total NIH funding. A reduction of the size proposed by President Trump would cut NIH funding to New York State by approximately $400 million. Each $1.0 million per year of NIH grant funding supports approximately 8-10 jobs, therefore NYS stands to lose between 3,200 to 4,000 well paying jobs if these budget cuts are enacted. In addition if we use the economic metric quoted above ($1.00 invested = $7.50 return) we are looking at a $3 billion dollar negative economic impact to our state.

In addition to the loss of grant funding from NIH, AMSNY is extremely concerned that President Trump has proposed eliminating key health programs such as the Fogarty International Center, block granting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and eliminating the Title VII and VIII grants for health professions training programs. These programs improve the health and safety of people in the United States and around the world, keep us safe and manage public health emergencies, and train health care professionals treating the most vulnerable citizens. In addition, the proposed budget moves the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) under the NIH, without a clear indication as to whether the total dollar amount for the NIH includes the resources needed to maintain AHRQ.
The President’s budget cuts could stymie years of progress and hard work on behalf of scientists in New York. Just this past year, Congress passed the 21st Century Cures Act to increase the funding to NIH in recognition of its importance to the health and economy of the nation. The proposed cuts undermine the intent and efficacy of that legislation. We strongly urge you to reject these proposals when Congress drafts the FY 2018 budget and ensure that NIH is fully funded.

On behalf of all of your constituents – including scientists, physicians and patients – who support the groundbreaking and valuable work done by our research community, thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Attachments:
- Cuts by Congressional Districts
- AMSNY 2018 Budget Blueprint

Cc: AMSNY Board of Trustees
Jo Wiederhorn

Sincerely,

Lee Goldman, M.D.
Chair, AMSNY
Executive Vice President and Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine Chief Executive, Columbia University Medical Center

Mark B. Taubman, M.D.
Treasurer, AMSNY
Dean, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
Chief Executive Officer, University of Rochester Medical Center

Augustine M.K. Choi, M.D.
Dean and Provost for Medical Affairs, Weill Cornell Medicine

Michael E. Cain, M.D.
Vice Chair, AMSNY
Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo

Dennis Charney, M.D.
Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System

Mantosh Dewan, M.D.
Interim Dean, College of Medicine
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Wolfgang Gilliar, D.O., FAAPMR
Dean, New York Institute of Technology
College of Osteopathic Medicine

Robert I. Grossman, M.D.
Dean and Chief Executive Officer,
NYU Langone Medical Center

Kenneth Kaushansky, M.D.
Senior Vice President of Health Sciences
Dean, Stony Brook University School of Medicine

D. Douglas Miller, M.D., C.M., M.B.A.
Vice-Provost for Biomedical Affairs
Dean, School of Medicine
New York Medical College

Carlos N. Pato, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean, College of Medicine
Senior Vice President for Research,
SUNY Downstate Medical Center

Lawrence G. Smith, M.D., M.A.C.P.
Dean, Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine
Physician-in-Chief, NorthwellHealth System

Allen M. Spiegel, M.D.
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer,
Montefiore Medicine
Dean, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Executive Dean and Chief Academic Officer
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine

Maurizio Trevisan, M.D., M.S.
Dean, CUNY School of Medicine

Vincent Verdile, M.D.
Dean, Albany Medical College
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs,
Albany Medical Center