



NEWS RELEASE

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**Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals (COBTH) Executive Director John Erwin Statement
*Proposed Cuts to National Institutes of Health (NIH) Funding***

If enacted, President Trump's proposed cut to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget would have a devastating impact on research and the life sciences economy here in Massachusetts and across the country.

In recent years, NIH-funded advances have led to a vaccine to prevent cervical cancer and a test to predict breast cancer recurrence, helped identify genetic markers for mental illness, improved asthma treatments, and nearly eliminated HIV transmissions between mother and child. Medical research is the beginning of hope for everyone who suffers from serious illnesses like cancer, diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. The President's proposed budget would slow or bring to a halt progress on research to find treatments and cures for these patients

In recent years global competition in medical research and the life sciences has intensified as China, Germany, India, Singapore, Sweden, the United Kingdom and others have taken steps to challenge America's leadership position. The President's proposed budget cut of nearly 20% puts that leadership position in real jeopardy.

Massachusetts is fortunate to have a Congressional delegation that realizes the importance of NIH funding and we will work with them and the research community here at home and across the country to fight this proposal.

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