



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

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August 4, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Representative
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chair Capito,

I am writing on behalf of the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) to express our concern regarding recent actions impacting the future of gastrointestinal and biomedical research in West Virginia. Further, **I commend the Senate Appropriations Committee for increasing the NIH's proposed budget to \$48.7 billion, and I hope this commitment will remain in the final budget.**

As you know, the Department of Governmental Efficiency has cancelled approximately 800 grants to researchers across the U.S., studying a variety of important health conditions, including numerous GI conditions that affect thousands of West Virginia residents.¹ These research projects were sufficiently important to be among the less than 20% of applications funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) annually. Although NIH leadership recently instructed agency staff not to cancel any additional grants until further notice, this directive could be lifted at any time.² **In West Virginia, the NIH funds 97 projects, investing over \$52 million in the state.**³

With the current delays and restrictions in the NIH grantmaking process, each of these awards is now at risk. More concerning than the loss of these studies was how they were cancelled – without input from the scientific community as to which studies were of highest value, nor a formal appeals process for researchers to defend their work. Indeed, for many of these cancellations, staff at the NIH were informed of the cancellation at the same time as the grant recipients. Given the rapidity and inexact nature of this process, years of high-quality research which had already been performed were squandered, and taxpayer dollars wasted. Although some of these awards may now be reinstated, the momentum of each project has slowed significantly, potentially delaying the delivery of new interventions for patients.

Given the concerning developments outlined above, I urge you to continue your support of biomedical research and oppose any cuts to NIH funding, as well as any proposed cuts to the indirect rates which support our biomedical research enterprise. Any budgetary gains realized by these cuts will be short-term and come at the cost of the health and economic impact of West Virginians. Additionally, because biomedical research is a focus of excellence in our state, and

¹ American Association of Medical Colleges, [Impact of NIH Grant Terminations](#)

² The New York Times, [N.I.H. Memo Pauses Cancellations of Medical Research Grants](#)

³ NIH RePORTER, [RePORT > RePORTER](#)

attracts both talent and jobs to West Virginia, we will disproportionately feel the impact of these cuts.

I hope you will act to protect the decades of work in West Virginia's biomedical research enterprise, work that continues to benefit your constituents and all patients across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left and a smaller flourish to the right.

Justin Kupec, MD, FACG
ACG Governor for West Virginia