

Amendment #

Summary of Senator Durbin's National Institutes of Health (NIH) Amendment

The amendment creates a deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow for growth of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

A reserve fund allows the Budget Committee chair to adjust the budget resolution's overall spending and revenue limits and the spending allocations for particular congressional committees to ensure that legislation accomplishing a reserve fund's goal — in this case, increasing funding for NIH research — will not be subject to a procedural bar if it breaches those limits or allocations, so long as the legislation does not increase the deficit.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Funding:

- NIH received \$30.9 billion in FY2012.
- Due to several years of flat funding and cuts, the current NIH budget funds just a fraction of the promising research that qualifies for funding. Consequently, the number of research grants funded by NIH has dropped every year since 2004.
- Every state and the District of Columbia received NIH funding in FY2012.
- Due to sequestration, the agency's FY2013 budget would be cut by \$1.553 billion and 20,500 jobs would be lost.

Economic Benefits of NIH Funding

- Nationally, every \$1 investment in NIH funding stimulates \$2.21 in business activity, such as support staff, supplies, food services, and building development.
- In 2011, NIH spending created \$62.12 billion in new economic activity and 432,000 jobs.
- NIH funding supports 351,000 U.S. jobs.

Implications of Sustained Cuts at NIH

- Universities would lose staff, have a hard time retaining and recruiting faculty, and slow the pace of research.
- The NIH would reduce some awards that have already been announced.
- New or ongoing research won't be funded with new grants.
- These losses would have a ripple effect on the biotech industry, construction, and other industries that support research.
- The U.S. could lose a new generation of scientists. Less funding means fewer grants to educate young scientists. And more competition for grants makes it difficult for young scientists to win funding, thereby dissuading new scientists from careers in research.

Medical Discoveries and Advancements Supported by NIH Funding

NIH supported research has:

- Led to the discovery of 152 new FDA approved drugs, vaccines, or new uses of drugs, over the last 40 years.
- Increased the 5-year survival of childhood leukemia by 90%.
- Supported the development of beta-blockers, a common drug for high-blood pressure, that save Medicare \$6,000 per patient by reducing hospitalizations.
- Invested in clinical trials that discovered a drug that significantly prevents the re-occurrence of certain breast cancers.
- Supported a research project, which reported this month that a 2-year old from Mississippi born with HIV may be the first child to be functionally cured of HIV.