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March 19, 2025

Acting Director Matthew Memoli
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Acting Director Memoli,

I write to you with concerns about the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) decision to cap facilities and administrative (F&A) research costs for NIH grant recipients in Virginia and across the country. I deeply respect and appreciate NIH and the Trump administration's desire to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, and to ensure the efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars. However, the effects of a 15 percent cap would lead to job loss and economic strife for local economies that are supported by these institutions.

NIH grants to these institutions support post-graduate and doctoral student research – the backbone of the future medical research and patient care workforce. Across the commonwealth, our preeminent research institutions support 127,300 undergraduate and 43,000 graduate students who represent the future health care and research workforce. This funding also supports local economies whose contractors and businesses support the infrastructure needed for this research. With a return on investment of 25:1, these investments directly correlate to significant economic output.

Virginia's largest research institutions collectively account for over \$2 billion in research and development expenditures annually. In fiscal year 2024, those institutions received nearly \$600 million in grants from NIH. However, if the caps at NIH are implemented, they would lose a combined \$109 million in research funding. The impact created by these caps on Virginia would be dramatic and immediate. For example, Virginia Commonwealth University, a leader in medical research for cancer and substance use, would lose \$25.9 million annually. Virginia Tech, my alma mater, would stand to lose \$13 million annually for its research programs that address children's health, heart disease, and brain disorders.

I know we share the same acknowledgement of the importance of robust NIH funding for research institutions that are developing the breakthrough therapies, pharmaceuticals, and technologies needed to address our country's acute medical challenges. I look forward to

working with NIH to attain cost savings while ensuring the continued support of NIH grant recipients.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4261.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert J. Wittman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

CC:

Director Nominee Jay Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D., National Institutes of Health