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1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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**Washington, DC 20515**

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2055 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4261

GLEN ALLEN OFFICE  
4201 DOMINION BOULEVARD, SUITE 110  
GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060  
(804) 401-4120

YORKTOWN OFFICE  
307 MAIN STREET  
YORKTOWN, VA 23690  
(757) 527-6270

[WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV](http://WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV)

March 20, 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 contact my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4261.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Wittman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress

CC:

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