6/12/2017

Tom Price, MD
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Price:

The American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) joins the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research in expressing our profound concern over the drastic cuts proposed in President Trump’s fiscal year 2018 budget. The proposed reduction to NIH of $7.16 billion, a 21% cut, would decrease funding for scientific research to below the 2003 level. This dangerous budget proposal directly contradicts strong bipartisan support in FY2017 for a $2 billion increase to National Institutes of Health funding over FY2016. Equally concerning are the deep cuts to the National Science Foundation (11% reduction), the Department of Energy Office of Science (17% reduction) and VA Research (5% reduction) budgets.

ASIP continues to stand with leading scientific organizations in denouncing the proposed budget and see a federal budget that reflects continued and unwavering bipartisan support for biomedical research.

As part of its ongoing support for research, many ASIP members joined a petition in support of core principles including strong funding of basic research. Over 180 leading pathology researchers joined ASIP in affirming the following core principles:

1. Federally funded basic research has made and continues to make important contributions to our nation’s health, economy and defense.
2. Scientific research should be ethical, transparent, and conducted with intellectual rigor.
3. Open discussion of scientific methods and scientific findings should be encouraged, both among scientists and with the broader public.
4. Science is a global effort that crosses national borders.

The American Society for Investigative Pathology is a society of biomedical scientists who investigate mechanisms of disease. Investigative pathology is an integrative discipline that links the presentation of disease in the whole organism to its fundamental cellular and molecular mechanisms. ASIP advocates for the practice of investigative pathology and fosters the professional career development and education of its members. www.asip.org

Sincerely,

Mark E. Sobel, MD, PhD
Executive Officer

George Michalopoulos, MD, PhD
President