



June 5, 2025

LUNGEvity Foundation Statement and Call to Action on the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Proposal

LUNGEvity Foundation calls on Congress to reject the catastrophic cuts to cancer research, prevention and control included in the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2026. The proposal includes a 37% cut to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and specifically a 37% cut for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the largest funder of cancer research in the world. Additionally, the Division of Cancer Control and Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would be completely eliminated under this proposal. If enacted, these cuts would stall new medical breakthroughs and undermine years of progress made in the prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

The NIH is the bedrock of medical research advances in lung cancer and hundreds of other diseases. NIH funding has contributed to the development of all lung cancer drugs approved in the past 15 years through support of the basic science that has unlocked key discoveries in our understanding of lung cancer. From 2010-2024, 39 new drugs were approved to treat lung cancer thanks to advancements in research. Before this, there were only 7 drugs available to treat all the types of lung cancer. New targeted therapies, immunotherapies, and combination therapies have revolutionized treatment for thousands of patients and improved outcomes for the nation's top cancer killer exponentially (lung cancer accounts for over 20% of cancer-deaths in the United States). The proposed cuts to NIH would set back further progress by years if not decades.

The proposed budget would also completely eliminate the CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, including the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) and the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). In recent years, many states have utilized NCCCP funding to provide community education about lung cancer and specifically lung cancer screening. Lung cancer diagnosed and treated at an early stage has a much higher survival rate, but most cases are not diagnosed until later stages. Increased awareness about early detection

is critical for improving survival. Meanwhile, the NPCR plays a vital role in collecting and disseminating information about cancer incidence that is used to make decisions about cancer resource allocations and guiding cancer control programs.

Under the President's proposed budget, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would also see a cut of more than 11%. The FDA plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and effectiveness of new drugs and devices, and cutting funding at the agency will only increase the time that patients have to wait for cutting-edge treatments.

For years, bipartisan leaders in the White House and Congress have worked together to increase investments in medical research and critical public health infrastructure. We urge our elected leaders to once again prioritize sustained and robust funding for cancer research and public health programs. Continued investment is essential to advance scientific discoveries, improve patient care, and ultimately save lives.

LUNGeivity Foundation is committed to advocating for policies that support lung cancer research and ensure access to quality healthcare for all individuals affected by this disease. We urge advocates to contact their legislators through the [LUNGeivity Action Network](#) and ask them to reject the harmful cuts proposed for key agencies including the NIH, NCI, CDC, and FDA.