



The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

December 12, 2025

Dear Senators Collins, Murray, Capito, and Baldwin, and Representatives Cole, DeLauro, and Aderholt:

The NCATS Alliance (the Alliance), a coalition of patient advocates, clinicians, academic medical centers, researchers, and biotechnology companies with a shared interest in translational research, urges Congress to pass as soon as possible a full-year Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill that allocates robust funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).



Specifically, the Alliance asks that a full-year NIH budget include:

\$75 Million National Clinical Cohort Collaborative (N3C) Increase (*House*)

The House report recognizes the value of N3C as a national, privacy-preserved, real-world data resource that supports research on conditions such as dementia, cancer, long COVID, renal disease, infection-associated chronic illnesses, and rare diseases. The Alliance strongly supports the House-recommended \$75 million in FY 2026 to maintain, modernize, and expand this vital translational data infrastructure.

Further, the Alliance is concerned about the recent shutdown of N3C that has prevented researchers across the country from accessing their data for over two months. This occurred without any advance notice and is delaying important scientific efforts and harming federal research investments. The Alliance asks the Appropriations committees to include additional report language in the legislation to protect and maintain researcher access to this unique and highly capable platform, the largest in the world. Our proposed language is below.

The Committee is concerned that the NCATS managed N3C real world data research platform has been taken offline and is inaccessible to researchers since the start of the fiscal year without any advance notice or transition plan. The committee recognizes the significant federal investment in this world class data platform, built expeditiously through trust and expertise unique to NCATS, and directs the Department to maintain N3C's operational, legal, and management authority at NCATS including the relationships with the CTSA's. The Committee directs NCATS to brief the Committee within 30 days of enactment on the status of N3C, and periodically thereafter as appropriate, on any key changes to the platform.

\$10 Million Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network (RDCRN) Increase (*Senate*)

More than 30 million Americans live with a rare disease, and the RDCRN—led by NCATS—remains the nation's foremost rare disease clinical research system. The Senate's recommendation of \$10 million will strengthen multi-site rare disease research consortia, improve patient recruitment, reduce time to diagnosis, and support clinical trial readiness for diseases that otherwise lack commercial incentives.

Increase Funding for Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program and Maintain Budget Line Item

The CTSA Program is the backbone of the nation's translational research infrastructure, supporting more than 60 academic medical centers, developing the clinical research workforce, advancing rural health innovation, and enabling multisite clinical studies. It is essential that the final FY 2026 bill preserves the CTSA line item to ensure transparency, program stability, and sustained support for the institutions that anchor the national clinical research enterprise.



Congress recognized the critical need to strengthen translational science when it established NCATS in 2011. Despite being significantly under-resourced since its inception, NCATS has made remarkable progress in advancing the translational sciences and technologies that accelerate biomedical research and development, leading more rapidly to effective treatments for both rare and common diseases. The NCATS Alliance urges Congress to provide the funding necessary for NCATS to continue accelerating the development of new treatments and deliver them to all Americans more quickly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin Brennan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Brennan
Executive Director, NCATS Alliance