



The Association of American Cancer Institutes Statement on Passage of the FY26 Labor-HHS Funding Bill

AACI thanks its champions in Congress for final passage of the Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies (FY26 Labor–HHS) appropriations bill, which reflects a strong bipartisan, bicameral commitment to sustained federal investment in cancer research, prevention, and care.

The bill provides funding increases for **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and the **National Cancer Institute**, reinforcing the federal government’s role in driving scientific discovery and medical innovation. FY26 appropriations protect negotiated indirect cost reimbursement for NIH grants and block administrative attempts to cap those rates, ensuring continued support for research infrastructure and the full cost of federally-funded cancer research.

Two pieces of legislation endorsed by AACI were also enacted. The [Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act](#) represents a major step forward in improving access to innovative screening technologies that can detect cancer earlier, when treatment is most effective. The bipartisan [Give Kids a Chance Act](#) removes barriers to pediatric drug development, accelerates combination therapy research, and strengthens incentives to bring new treatments to children with cancer.

“While the appropriations bill represents meaningful progress, predictable investment in cancer research and public health will be essential to keep pace with scientific opportunity, inflation, and growing patient need,” said AACI Executive Director **Jennifer W. Pegher**. “AACI urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its agencies to ensure that this funding is disbursed and spent as directed by Congress to maximize its impact on patients.”