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**Template Op-Ed for Community Submission**

**Protect the Research That Keeps Our Families Healthy**

By *[Your Name], [Your City or Affiliation, Optional]*

As a [*healthcare provider/community member]* who cares deeply about the health and well-being of our community, I am alarmed by two serious threats to medical research that directly impacts families right here in *[your town/state].*

First, more than $1.5 billion in promised research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been frozen since January. Second, Congress is considering a bill (H.R. 1497) that would break apart the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)—the very institute responsible for many of the medical breakthroughs we rely on.

This isn’t just about big research centers in distant cities. It’s about the children in our schools who suffer from asthma, the neighbors managing food allergies and families coping with eczema, immune deficiencies and other serious health challenges. For years, NIAID has connected experts studying allergies, infections and the immune system under one roof, leading to treatments that are now changing—and saving—lives.

Without this structure, critical research will slow down, clinical trials will stall and fewer new treatments will reach patients. To make matters worse, cuts to the infrastructure funding that keeps research going could force universities and hospitals to reduce or even cancel research projects altogether.

We all know someone who depends on the treatments made possible by medical research. Whether it’s a child who can now safely be exposed to peanuts thanks to a groundbreaking treatment strategy, or someone with asthma who breathes easier because of new therapies, these advances only happened because of NIH and NIAID.

I urge our elected leaders to fully fund the NIH and protect NIAID’s structure. Our health, our families and our future depend on it.

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