

July 10, 2024

Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As the House Appropriations Committee begins its markup of its Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) spending bill for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), the 159,000 members of the ADA respectfully ask you to strip the language that calls for a massive reorganization of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The current version of the appropriations bill would consolidate the NIH's 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs) into 15 newly renamed ICs. This massive restructuring will dilute the specialized focus that allows each IC to perform targeted and effective research within its area of expertise and lead to a loss of specialization in the existing areas of health research, including the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).

NIDCR is the nation's primary biomedical and behavioral research and research training organization specializing in dental, oral, and craniofacial health. For 75 years, its laboratory, clinical, behavioral, translational, and population-based programs have given the country and the world a fundamental understanding of how to prevent, detect, and treat dental, oral, and craniofacial diseases and conditions. Diminishing NIDCR's Institute-level status would threaten the United States' position as the world's leader in dental, oral, and craniofacial health research.

Structural and policy changes of this magnitude must be considered through an open, transparent process that includes public hearings and a thorough review of the impact on biomedical research. They must be legislated thoughtfully and deliberately—through an appropriate authorizing body—not simply written into an appropriations bill. Using the appropriations process in this way is a violation of the longstanding processes and procedures of the House.

The ADA is open to a robust discussion about how to improve and modernize NIH, including the commendable effort to reduce administrative costs and enhance accountability. In the meantime, we respectfully ask you to strip the language in the LHHS FY25 appropriations bill that calls for a massive reorganization of the NIH.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jennifer Fisher at 202-789-5160 or [fisherj@ada.org](mailto:fisherj@ada.org).

Honorable Tom Cole  
Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
July 9, 2024  
Page 2

Sincerely,

/s/

Linda J. Edgar, D.D.S., M.Ed.  
President

LJE:RAC:rjb

/s/

Raymond A. Cohlma, D.D.S.  
Executive Director