



THE TEXAS POLICY VOICE FOR HEALTHCARE AND BIOSCIENCE

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THBI STATEMENT ON NIH GUIDANCE TO REDUCE FUNDING FOR MEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCE RESEARCH

AUSTIN, TX | February 12, 2025 – The Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI), the statewide organization representing the life science industry in Texas, expresses deep concern over the recent guidance released by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to limit funding for medical and life science research at Institutions of Higher Education. In partnership with regional BIO partners, THBI represents over 9,200 establishments and over 129,245 employees involved in the research, development, and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biomedical technologies, nationally recognized research institutions, and the economic development partners who support them. If fully implemented, this decision will have far reaching and detrimental consequences for Texas' innovation economy and workforce, as well as its ability to remain a cutting-edge leader in research and development.

- NIH funding, a catalyst for advancing discovery in life sciences, provided \$1.8 billion in grant funding to Texas institutions in 2023, growing 34% since 2019.
- Bioscience-related academic R&D expenditures in Texas totaled \$4.6 billion in 2022, ranking 3rd in the country.
- Texas' bioscience industry is large and rapidly growing, employing 129,245 in 2023 across 9,212 establishments with employment growth of 21.6% since 2019.
- Texas bioscience companies raised \$8.7 billion in venture capital investment from 2019 through 2023, ranking 5th in the country.
- State inventors are affiliated with nearly 8,000 bioscience-related patents over the same five-year period, ranking 9th in the country.

Since 2019, the life science and biotech industry in Texas has seen 21.6 percent growth. Foundational to that growth is the research and discovery funded by the NIH and other granting agencies that bring new products to the market.

It is worth reiterating that Texas currently ranks third in the country for bioscience-related academic research and development expenditures. This research is happening at academic institutions across the state. Reduced NIH funding will lead to fewer research projects, fewer opportunities for collaboration

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with industry partners, and ultimately job losses in both academia and the private sector, and Texas has a lot to lose. In 2023, the Houston-Pasadena-Woodlands MSA ranked third in the country with over 1,923 jobs in the agriculture and industrial bioscience sector while the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA ranked fourth in the country with 19,460 jobs in bioscience-related distribution.

Texas continues to be a leader in key innovation metrics, ranking third in the country in bioscience-related academic R&D. That investment is generating significant economic benefits; the fastest growing subsector in life sciences is related to research, testing and medical laboratories which has seen a 96.8% growth in employers since 2019, with over 3,913 establishments and 37,702 jobs with an average annual wage of \$113,689.

THBI urges the administration to reconsider this guidance and acknowledge the crucial role that NIH funding plays not only in driving medical research and innovation but in creating strong well-paying jobs for individuals at all education levels and fostering economic growth throughout our communities. We look forward to working with policymakers to ensure that Texas continues to be a life science and biotech powerhouse.

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About the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute

The Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI) is the Texas public policy voice for the healthcare and bioscience industry. The Texas life sciences industry is committed to expanding the boundaries of science by discovering, developing, and delivering innovative and needed medications to patients. It is the patient that is the ultimate beneficiary of such advances. The membership of THBI is dedicated to creating an environment where such discoveries flourish and thrive. For more information, visit www.thbi.com.