

Worried About the Federal Assault on Science? Support a NYS-Funded Science Budget Proposal NOW

By Wendy Diller

Biomedical research, one of the pillars of United States' prosperity and leadership, is in deep trouble. Real and threatened cutbacks in funding for early-stage research in particular—the source of all notable advances—is in jeopardy, throwing US academic medical centers and affiliated staff, vendors and, most of all, patients into turmoil.

In addition, shifts in priorities and criteria for reviewing National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants, which are the lifeblood of basic academic research, and a general sense that the federal government is basing decisions on partisanship rather than on unbiased scientific expertise are roiling universities, industry, and local economies.

In response to the politicization of federally-funded science, NYCURES, a nonpartisan coalition of institutional leaders, scientists, clinicians, students, educators, patients, and everyday New Yorkers, is asking for \$500 million in seed funding and \$6 billion in long-term monies to start a new [Empire Biomedical Research Institute \(EBRI\)](#).

The proposal is on Gov. Kathy Hochul's desk now. January is the make-or-break month, when Gov. Hochul is scheduled to publicly announce her latest Executive Budget.

Therefore, supporters need to ADVOCATE LOUDLY AND NOW! You can help by signing the petition [here](#) and sharing it with friends and colleagues. And consider writing to your local legislators, urging them to get on board.

What's at stake:

! New York State is the second leading recipient of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, totaling nearly \$3.6 billion in 2024 – 70% of which was awarded to scientists at our medical schools. Every dollar invested in research by the NIH produces an estimated \$2.50 in economic activity.

! 35,000 New Yorkers work in federally funded biomedical research at our medical schools alone.

! More than 17,000 people are directly engaged in research, generating \$8.3 billion in economic activity in the state. An estimated 120K people work in biomedical companies across the state.

! Texas and California already have impactful state-funded research institutes- it's about time for NY, too!

This money, of course, can't make up for the volatility of federal funding but it can smooth out some rough edges and keep NYS at the forefront of an important national resource. EBRI will, among other things:

! Fund investigator-driven projects statewide, not just at a few flagships.

! Build shared technology cores that speed translation from bench to bedside.

! Support graduate and postdoc training and cross-institution collaboration.

This proposal advances Gov. Hochul's affordability agenda by ensuring research jobs stay in NYS, as well as affiliated suppliers, and lays the foundation for a vibrant STEM industry. The New York State Economic Development Council (NYSEDC) already does a great job of supporting industry--and NYS is a national and global leader in fundamental biomedical research.

But we need to ensure that New York State remains at the forefront of biomedical research and innovation, regardless of federal policies. It is vital to public health, economic prosperity and a strong economic and healthcare driven future regionally and for the US broadly.

Anyone who supports science and lives in New York State can JOIN THE COALITION. SIGN UP TODAY at: <https://nycures.org/>