

Protect Federal Investment in Pain Medicine Research

The Issue

Millions of Americans suffer from chronic pain for which there are few safe and effective treatments. Federally supported research has transformed the safety of pain management. Continued investment in objective, merit-based medical research will ensure patients continue benefiting from safer and more effective treatments. NIH-funded research is making strides in developing new pain treatments, but ongoing investment and a grants system that values scientific merit are necessary to continue this important work.

Protect Pain Medicine Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is funding research to improve our understanding and treatment of pain.

It can take years to develop new treatments. Continuous federal investment helps promising discoveries transition from the laboratory to clinical trials and then to patients.

Congress should fully fund the NIH and maintain strong federal investment in pain medicine research, including the development of non-opioid and non-addictive treatments.

Preserve Scientific Merit

In May 2026, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed changes to government-wide rules governing federal grants. The proposed revisions to the OMB federal rules governing research grants risk adding subjective decision-making combined with funding constraints that could weaken biomedical research and medical advances in the Nation. Independent scientific peer review must remain the cornerstone of research and federal policy should preserve a reliable pathway from laboratory discovery to peer-reviewed publication, scientific exchange, and bedside care.

Why It Matters to Patients

Federal research provides doctors with more tools to treat pain safely and effectively. Ongoing investment and scientific merit review help ensure that promising discoveries translate into new medications, devices, and treatment strategies that improve patients' lives.

Congressional Ask

Ask Congress to fully fund the NIH, including research into pain medicine and non-opioid treatments. Urge Congress to preserve the merit-based, objective scientific processes and maintain clear objective standards in grant decisions by stopping the proposed OMB rule.

