

SRNT Statement on the Administration's Budget Blueprint March 23, 2017

The President's abridged budget plan for Fiscal Year 2018, described as a "budget blueprint," will place a severe strain on the global research community, including the nicotine and tobacco research community. The stated goal is a budget that "puts America first" by making deep cuts to public health, education and other critical agencies, and shifting those resources to defense and homeland security.

The cuts proposed—including an 18.3% (about \$5.8 billion) cut to the National Institutes of Health and a major restructuring of health and human service agencies—will undermine important research programs, will cut funding to generations of highly-trained scientists, and will harm training programs at academic institutions around the nation.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the US and globally, attributed to over half a million US deaths annually. Translational research that crosses pre-clinical, clinical, epidemiology, and health policy is fundamental to America's approach to addressing individual and public health concerns.

Support for research and for public health must be a national priority. The nation's science infrastructure has already experienced severe budgetary cuts since passage of the Budget Control Act of 2011. We urge the Administration and Congress to revisit the impact of prolonged, austere budgets on the vitality of the nation's research infrastructure and to recommit to building our country's research system.

America's health and welfare depend on it, and the ramifications for public health are global.

[Read More](#)

Take Action

- Contact your representatives to voice your opposition to the President's proposed budget. For contact details see: <http://whoismyrepresentative.com/>
- Consider participating in the March for Science on April 22, 2017. For locations see: <https://www.marchforscience.com/>