

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE MAJORITY CAUCUS**Re: Opposing the Trump Administration's Cuts to Federal Medical Research Funding**

WHEREAS, scientific and medical research is critical to advancing public health, improving patient outcomes, and maintaining the United States' global leadership in innovation; and

WHEREAS, the University at Buffalo (UB), a premier research institution, currently receives approximately \$81 million in annual grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support nearly 300 research projects aimed at developing new treatments for diseases such as multiple sclerosis, cancer, and neonatal health; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has proposed a cap on indirect costs for NIH-funded research grants, reducing the allowable allocation from an average of 40% to a mere 15%, resulting in an estimated loss of \$47 million for UB over the next three to five years, including a \$7 million reduction in just the next four months; and

WHEREAS, indirect research costs fund critical infrastructure, including laboratory maintenance, electricity, internet service, office equipment, security, and administrative support, all of which are essential for conducting medical research; and

WHEREAS, research institutions, universities, hospitals, and cancer centers across the country rely on indirect cost funding to sustain their research efforts and ensure the continuation of vital clinical trials and medical advancements; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration's characterization of indirect cost funding as "wasteful" is a misrepresentation of the essential role these funds play in ensuring the success of medical research initiatives; and

WHEREAS, a federal judge has temporarily blocked the administration from implementing these cuts, but researchers remain concerned about the long-term threat to federal research funding and the potential for future economic and scientific setbacks; and

WHEREAS, the proposed cuts would harm Erie County's economy, as NIH funding supports approximately 30,000 jobs in New York State and generates \$8 billion in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, undermining medical research funding could lead to delays in life-saving treatments, layoffs in the research sector, and the erosion of the United States' leadership in global health advancements; and

WHEREAS, elected officials, including Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative Tim Kennedy, have strongly opposed these cuts and emphasized the critical role of Congress in allocating research funding; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature's Majority Caucus strongly opposes the Trump administration's efforts to impose a 15% cap on indirect costs for NIH-funded research grants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature urges the New York State Congressional delegation and the Trump administration to take legislative action to protect federal research funding and ensure the continuation of vital medical research in Erie County and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Erie County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, the New York State Congressional delegation, Governor Kathy Hochul, the Chancellor of the State University of New York, the President of the University at Buffalo, and any other officials deemed necessary and proper.