



## PPC Action Alert

### Tell Congress to Finish Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Spending Bills

We are reaching out with an opportunity to secure funding increases for key pediatric research priorities. **Take action today to urge your members of Congress to pass a final spending package for FY 2022.**

Congressional appropriators, responsible for determining the amount of money federal agencies and programs get each year, have proposed historic funding increases for pediatric research in FY 2022, which began on October 1. These include:

- \$3.5 billion increase for the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, of which more than \$100 million will go to the **Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)**
- \$25 million increase for **gun violence prevention research** at the NIH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a doubling of current funding
- \$50 million increase for the **Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME)** program
- \$30 million in first-time funding for the **Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program**

However, Congress has not yet reached a final deal on FY 2022 spending legislation, meaning the federal government is operating under a continuing resolution (CR) at last year's funding levels while Congress completes its work. Additionally, these funding increases have only been passed by one chamber of Congress so far, so the House and Senate will need to reconcile the differences between their two proposals before final legislation is agreed.

With the current CR expiring on February 18, Congress is working to negotiate final spending legislation for FY 2022. Now is the time to tell your members of Congress why pediatric researchers are depending on them to finish the job and make pediatric research funding increases a reality.

**Please email or call your U.S. senators as soon as possible and ask them to pass a final spending package for FY 2022.** A template email and phone script specifically for contacting your U.S. representative and senators is available below.

### Contact Your Members of Congress Today

Reach out to your members of Congress today and urge them to pass final FY 2022 spending legislation. You can reach out to them by phone or email. If you have time, you can call and then follow-up via email to maximize your impact.

You can use the talking points below as a phone script or customize them to send as an email. Additional instructions for contacting your members of Congress by phone and email are immediately below.

**By Phone:** You can call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 to be connected to your U.S. representative and senators' offices. You also can find your U.S. representative by visiting [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and using the "Find Your Representative" feature at the top right of the page. To find your U.S. senators, visit [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov)

and use the "Find Your Senators" feature at the top left of the page. The contact information for each member's Washington, DC, office is available on their website.

**By Email:** You can email your members of Congress through their websites. You can find your U.S. representative by visiting [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) and using the "Find Your Representative" feature at the top right of the page. To find your U.S. senators, visit [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov) and use the "Find Your Senators" feature at the top left of the page. Email your U.S. representative and senators through the contact form on their websites by customizing the talking points below.

### ***Talking points***

- Hello. My name is **{First and last name}** from **{Town}**. I am an academic pediatrician specializing in **{insert your area of research expertise e.g., pediatric endocrinology, etc.}**, and I am calling today to urge **{member of Congress's name}** to support pediatric research breakthroughs by passing final Fiscal Year 2022 spending legislation.
- From groundbreaking treatments for deadly chronic diseases to life-saving interventions for babies who are born premature, pediatric research has improved the health and well-being of children and adolescents dramatically over the last century.
- NIH is currently conducting critical research on the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on children. A final spending deal is needed to ensure no delays in this important work.
- The federal government has played an essential role in this work, funding pediatric research and developing a pipeline of academic pediatricians to develop the next great child health advances.
- Recognizing the success of these investments, congressional appropriators have proposed significant funding increases for the National Institutes of Health and other programs critical to supporting pediatric research like the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program in FY 2022. I am especially pleased that both the House and Senate have proposed initial funding for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program to address shortages of pediatric subspecialists who often go on to pursue careers in research.
- Congress must act now to negotiate a final spending bill for FY 2022. Failure to do so quickly will only delay the next generation of cures for young people.
- I urge **{member of Congress's name}** to support the highest possible funding allocations for pediatric research and workforce programs and to pass final FY 2022 spending legislation before the current continuing resolution expires on February 18.
- Thank you for all you do for children.