



April 9, 2025

U.S. House of Representatives
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services and related agencies
The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chair
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member

FY 2026 Written Testimony for the Hearing Record

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) represents over 100,000 architects and design professionals. For nearly 170 years, AIA has been committed to safeguarding the public's health, safety, and welfare, and to the improvement of our nation's quality of life through the built environment.

As part of architects' professional duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of the buildings they design, AIA recognizes the critical importance of indoor air quality, especially considering its direct impact on public health. AIA members are deeply committed to advancing these priorities through innovative building design, including the integration of energy-efficient solutions and materials that promote healthier indoor environments. We urge the committee to prioritize funding research on the factors impacting indoor air quality and possible interventions that will improve health across both residential and commercial buildings.

As such, AIA respectfully submits the following recommendations for appropriations in the FY 2026 Health and Human Services bill for your consideration.

At least \$51.303 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for fiscal year (FY) 2026 and a corresponding increased total of \$996 Million for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)

Publicly funded research through institutions like the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is essential for advancing scientific knowledge and for driving economic growth and improving public health. By investing in research, the U.S. government supports the development of new treatments that can reduce healthcare costs and improve quality of life.

Research on environmental health, for example, helps mitigate the economic burden of diseases linked to in and outdoor air pollution, while also fostering innovation in sustainable building materials and energy-efficient solutions. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) plays a pivotal role in advancing research on the effects of

The American
Institute of
Architects

1735 New York
Avenue NW

Washington, DC
20006

environmental factors on human health. NIEHS funds studies that examine how exposure to pollutants, especially those found indoors, can lead to diseases or exacerbate existing conditions. Given that Americans spend 90% of their time indoors, the impact of air quality on health is significant. NIEHS-funded investigators look at the impact pollutants like nitrogen dioxide from gas stoves, mold, tobacco smoke, pet dander, and industrial chemicals have on our health. Research funded by this agency helps us understand how pollutants infiltrate homes and workplaces, and how factors like building ventilation and personal activity levels can increase exposure. This research is part of the broader effort to understand the exposome, or the totality of environmental exposures throughout a person's lifetime, and is crucial in shaping public health policy and interventions.

NIH funding, particularly in agencies like NIEHS, has a far-reaching impact, creating jobs, stimulating the economy, and contributing to public health improvements that benefit society as a whole. Prioritizing this research ensures that we remain at the forefront of global health advancements while also addressing the complex challenges posed by our built and natural environments.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to respond.