

San Diego is a Biomedical Powerhouse. Let's Keep It That Way.

A letter from Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice Chair of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors

I have the honor of representing San Diego County's Third Supervisorial District, stretching inland along the coast from Coronado to Carlsbad. Many leading biomedical research institutions call my district home, including Sanford Burnham Prebys, UC San Diego and dozens of promising startups dotting the Mesa and Sorrento Valley.

As county supervisor, my job is to make San Diego the best place to work and live that it can be, which is why I find the federal government's cuts and disruptions to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) so alarming.

Growing up in La Jolla, biomedical research and development (R&D) was everywhere. Since taking off in the 1970s, when Dr. Fishman launched the La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation, and Professor Ivor Royston spun the region's first biotech startup out of UC San Diego, our region has emerged as a world-class biomedical R&D hub that generates \$31 billion in economic impact every year and supports 164,000 good jobs — including 40,000 scientists and R&D professionals.

San Diego is rightfully proud of our biomedical success. We are on the frontlines of saving lives, fighting diseases and pushing the boundaries of scientific discovery. The research being done here makes a real difference in peoples' lives. But we haven't done it alone.

The NIH has been an essential partner, investing more than \$1 billion annually in San Diego's labs, hospitals and startups. The NIH supports San Diego's biomedical community at every step of the research and development process, from funding brilliant scientists and state-of-the-art labs to supporting top tier educational programs and students to helping startups bring products to market.

NIH grants keep science progressing, paychecks coming and labs running. They train the next generation of scientists and help turn an entrepreneur's great idea into the next big commercial product. Every dollar the NIH sends to San Diego attracts an additional three to five dollars in private investment, drawing top talent to our region and cementing San Diego's reputation as a premier biomedical destination.

Destructive federal policies toward the NIH put San Diego's world class biomedical R&D hub at risk. That is why I led [a resolution of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors](#) on June 3rd uniting San Diego against NIH cuts and disruptions that undermine our regional innovation economy, stall medical breakthroughs and eliminate thousands of high-wage local jobs.

And I will be sending [a petition](#) to Congress signed by more than 1,370 concerned San Diego residents. However, the fight to reverse these self-destructive policies has only just begun. I urge you to join us in speaking up and taking action alongside San Diego's biomedical community to redirect federal policy toward reinvesting in biomedical research, education and entrepreneurship right here in San Diego.

Terra Lawson-Remer

San Diego County Board of Supervisors

District 3