



April 29, 2026

Governor Maura T. Healey
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey:

Thank you for your letter to Robert Kennedy, Jr., Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, regarding clinical trial programs and funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As the Principal Deputy Director of NIH, I am responding on his behalf.

NIH is committed to supporting gold standard clinical trials to translate promising interventions into new tools and treatments that improve public health. The recent *JAMA Internal Medicine* article, [Clinical Trials Affected by Research Grant Terminations at the National Institutes of Health](#) cited in your letter, suggested that 383 clinical trials lost NIH grant funding in the spring and summer of 2025, raising concerns about potential impacts on trial participants.¹ Because clinical research is central to NIH's mission, NIH staff replicated and updated the study. Our analysis revealed a more nuanced picture. Importantly, they found that only 28 clinical trials remain associated with terminated grants, and only 14 of those were actively enrolling participants.

NIH takes its commitment to clinical trial participants seriously, particularly regarding participant safety and continuity of care. Notices of Award terminations included clauses that allowed institutions to request funds to support participant safety and orderly closeout of the project. Awardees were offered the opportunity to continue drawing down funds in support of participant safety.

Clinical trials are the backbone of translating promising treatments into cures for the American people, making them central to NIH's mission. NIH is currently supporting over 119,000 active clinical trials, which are testing chemotherapies, pain treatments, medical devices, and more.

We appreciate your interest in the Department's activities and its oversight responsibilities. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to support our shared mission of advancing the health and wellbeing of all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Memoli".

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.
Principal Deputy Director, NIH

¹ pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41247710/