

- U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin -
The Next Generation Research Act

When the Senate re-convenes, Senator Baldwin will introduce *The Next Generation Research Act* to demonstrate her commitment to our nation's young scientists and coordinate efforts within the NIH to improve opportunities for our next generation of researchers.

An Introduction

In order to build long-term economic growth, we need to make a strong commitment to supporting research, innovation, science, and technology. Wisconsin has a proud tradition in these fields. From discovering how Vitamin D can best be absorbed, to unlocking the potential of stem cells, to developing a more effective cancer radiation therapy, our scientists have produced breakthroughs that save lives and create jobs. Groundbreaking research supported by ***the National Institutes of Health (NIH) alone adds more than \$800 million per year to our state's economy.***

Unfortunately, current policies are putting the brakes on research and innovation at a time when we need to be stepping on the accelerator. Over the past ten years, the purchasing power of the NIH has decreased 22 percent while our global competitors have ramped up their own research capabilities. This year, Sequestration cuts will slash \$1.5 billion from the NIH budget.

These destructive policies are particularly devastating for our nation's young researchers. When Senator Baldwin met with NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins, he cautioned that "we are putting an entire generation of scientists at risk." Without action, talented young scientists may decide to do something else, or leave the country to pursue their research. As is, the average age of a first-time NIH grant recipient is 42 years old—up from 36 in 1980. The best and brightest scientific minds need to know that our country stands with them. Congress must send that message.

Senator Tammy Baldwin supports a budget that would prevent harmful Sequestration cuts to the NIH and Wisconsin's research institutions. The Senate's budget approach provides for up to \$8 billion more in NIH research investments than the approach taken by the House of Representatives.

Soon, Senator Baldwin will introduce *the Next Generation Research Act* to demonstrate a commitment to our nation's young scientists. This legislation will coordinate efforts within the NIH to improve opportunities for our next generation of researchers.

About the Next Generation Research Act

This legislation will coordinate efforts within the NIH to improve opportunities for our next generation of researchers. Specifically, the bill will:

Coordinate efforts for the next generation of researchers within the National Institutes of Health

- The bill authorizes the creation of the Next Generation of Research Initiative within the NIH Office of the Director.
- The Initiative will be charged with directing all current and new NIH policies aimed at promoting new researchers.
- To ensure that the Initiative complements existing research projects within the NIH, the bill authorizes such funding as is necessary to carry out the program's mission.

Promote current and new policies aimed at improving opportunities for young scientists

- Current NIH policies that have helped early-stage investigators (ESI) include the Pathway to Independence Award, which provides both mentorship and independent research support to new investigators with a postdoctoral degree; the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, which supports exceptionally creative new investigators who propose highly innovative projects that have the potential for unusually high impact; and ESI grant review procedures, which ensure that new investigators have a fair shot to succeed.
- New policies will include implementing the recommendations provided by the NIH Office of Extramural Research, improving mentorship between veteran and new researchers, expanding workforce diversity efforts, and exploring ways to improve success in applying for a new researcher's second grant (only 1 in 6 first-time investigators succeed in receiving a second NIH grant).

Conduct a comprehensive study on the best possible ways our country can establish the next generation of research

- Providing for the next generation of researchers goes beyond encouraging policies at the NIH.
- To ensure a comprehensive approach, the bill will direct the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to produce a report to evaluate barriers for entry into biomedical research for early-stage scientists and new investigators.
- The study will evaluate legislative, administrative, educational and cultural barriers to providing for a strong, diverse next generation of researchers.
- NAS shall issue recommendations to Congress and the NIH to incentivize, improve entry into, and sustain careers in biomedical research for new and young investigators – including agency policies and policies for academic institutions.
- The study will also include an evaluation on the impact of Sequestration and budget constraints on the next generation of researchers.
- The study will be conducted in conjunction with existing NAS reporting, pursuant to Section 489 of the Public Health Service Act.

Believe in our future. Support the Next Generation Research Act today.