



# SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR RALLY PARTICIPANTS

## INTRODUCTIONS

- Name
- Which organization you are representing – e.g., *I work with the Deadliest Cancers Coalition.*
- Geography – e.g., *I live off of Wurzbach in San Antonio, Texas.*
- If there's time, one sentence about why you are participating in the Rally – e.g., *I am participating today because my mother is a two-time cancer survivor.*

## MAKING THE CASE

- Group leaders will be making the asks, which can be found [here](#). Here's a reminder:
  - Thank you for providing six straight years of robust funding increases for the NIH.
  - Please provide the NIH with at least \$46.4 billion (a \$3.5 billion increase) for the base budget in FY 2022.
  - Please provide at least \$10 billion in emergency supplemental funding for NIH to support research impacted to the pandemic.
- As a participant, YOUR STORY is the most potent tool. Don't forget to fill out your ["I Rally for" Sign](#) and use it in your meetings and in social media.
- Make it memorable but keep it short to allow others in your group time to share their stories.
- Keep in mind that most meetings will be around 15 minutes long.
- You can also bolster your story by referencing one or two statistics about the disease or condition you are representing. Be careful, though, of using too many statistics. Your story should be your focus!
- The [NIH One-Pager](#) has statistics on the importance of NIH funding for medical research and for the economy.
- Elected officials LOVE state-based data! Data showing the importance of medical research in your state, particularly the impact on the state economy, is available on the [FASEB state fact sheets](#). Just click on your state and select the "NIH State Fact Sheet."



# RALLY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH™

Together for More **Progress**, More **Hope**, More **Life**.

## DEALING WITH PUSHBACK

- Group leaders will generally respond to any pushback from members of Congress or staff in your meeting.
- Common arguments that you may hear from some offices are concerns about competing priorities and/or a concern about overall spending levels. We understand these concerns and certainly appreciate the difficult times that we currently live in.
- However, we also know that NIH funding has been proven to help the economy by supporting jobs in communities throughout the country.
- Providing appropriate funding to the NIH is critical to not only fighting COVID-19, but also to rebuilding the economy throughout the remainder of and post-pandemic.
- While COVID-19 continues to be a threat, we still need “regular” medical research funding to reduce death and suffering from the myriad of conditions Americans faced before COVID-19, are continuing to face during the pandemic, and will continue to face in the future unless we find new treatments and early detection tools.

## RESOURCES

- Links to all of the documents listed above and videos showing sample meetings, are available at <https://rallyformedicalresearch.org/2021rallyparticipantinformation/>.

