

Resolution on Advancing a Worker-Led Plan for American Science

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Whereas, millions of working people are directly affected by deadly diseases like cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's every year. For instance, cancer is the leading cause of death for those 65 and younger, and nearly 7 million people in America are living with Alzheimer's;

Whereas, far too many working people struggle to afford adequate healthcare, and face exorbitant costs for lifesaving medications thanks to the unchecked greed of wealthy pharmaceutical companies;

Whereas, natural disasters like wildfires and floods are becoming increasingly frequent and extreme, in many cases destroying working people's homes and causing significant financial and emotional stress;

Whereas, millions of working families are impacted by increasingly high costs of energy, transportation, fresh food and water, and other day-to-day needs;

Whereas, public scientific research benefits all working people, addressing all these issues and more. Every \$1 invested in scientific research produces \$2.46 in economic return¹. Advances in healthcare research can help working people live longer, healthier lives and receive better treatments for diseases ranging from Alzheimer's to cancer. From 2010-2019, 354 out of 356 FDA-approved drugs were backed by public NIH-funded research. Climate and environmental science helps us better predict and recover from natural disasters including wildfires and floods, helps us breathe clean air and drink clean water and have access to public land. Scientific research and innovation drives job growth in other sectors with UAW-represented workers including but not limited to auto, battery, aerospace and EV manufacturing;

Whereas, federal funding for science is under attack by the Trump administration, including but not limited to his attempts to cut 2/3 from the federal budget for publicly funded research, reducing the number of grants funded by 25%, refusing commonplace funding extensions for ongoing studies and reductions in fellowships that keep science accessible to the next generation, and more;

¹ <https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/impact-nih-research/serving-society/direct-economic-contributions>

Whereas, prior even to the current politically motivated attacks on scientific research funding, there was an urgent need for an increase in publicly funded research. In academic sectors science has long been underfunded, and the private sector has commercialized outputs of scientific advancement for the financial benefit of its shareholders rather than working people;

Whereas, UAW represents over 125,000 workers at higher education and scientific research institutions across the country, many of whom are facing unprecedented existential threats to their research and careers including but not limited to layoffs, unstable career trajectories, lack of career-track job opportunities, low pay, harassment/abuse, visa insecurity, and pressure to move out of the US;

Whereas, scientific jobs should be pathways to stable, dignified careers that are accessible to all working people, including education and training opportunities, freedom from harassment and abuse, and job security;

Whereas, UAW has launched the *Kill the Cuts* campaign to advance this vision, activating thousands of members through national days of action, town halls, lobbying, and motivating thousands of members to get more involved in their union, contribute to VCAP, and become union leaders. As a result of these actions, this year's Congress rejected cuts to research funding in the 2026 congressional appropriations bill, but there is more to be done;

Whereas, UAW members in CA have launched *Save Science Save Lives* bond campaign, which would create a new vision for publicly funded science in California and serve as a model for workers in other states to replicate; Therefore, be it

Resolved, that the UAW shall be a force for change in advancing a bold, progressive vision of science in the U.S. that's centered on advancing the needs of working people and ensuring that innovations from scientific research directly benefit working families, not the ultra-wealthy;

Be it further resolved, that the UAW will continue committing resources and political action to member-led organizing to defend and increase public funding for scientific research, and to ensure that the innovations from public research go to supporting the needs of working people, not enriching billionaires and CEOs;

Be it further resolved, that the UAW will continue investing in sectoral bargaining and organizing strategies to advance good union jobs in scientific research that create stable, dignified career paths for working class people, including in strategic sectors like

higher education, civil service, biotech and contract manufacturing organizations, EV/battery research and development, and national labs.

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