



Senator Scott Wiener, 11th Senate District

Senate Bill 607 - California Foundation for Science and Health Research

SUMMARY

Scientific research and innovation is the engine of California's economic prosperity. As the Trump Administration threatens to bulldoze the nation's esteemed scientific institutions, SB 607 creates the California Foundation for Science and Health Research to ensure that life-saving and economically-vital scientific, medical, and environmental research continues in the state, even if the Trump Administration cuts or withholds Federal funds.

SB 607 authorizes up to \$23 billion in General Obligation Bonds to fund research grants, loans, and facilities. This will protect California's role as a global leader in innovation, an investment that will help generate a significantly greater amount in tax revenue, drive middle class job growth, and provide hope and healing to millions of Californians confronting deadly and debilitating diseases.

BACKGROUND

With the support of government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the scientific community has made innumerable advancements that have dramatically boosted public health, lowered costs, and improved quality of life for Californians.

Scientific research and innovation are also the engines that have driven California's economic success for decades. The breakthroughs produced by universities and scientific researchers have sparked new industries and powered the success of the state's biotech, medical, agricultural, and

software industries from startups to global companies. For every dollar invested in National Institutes of Health research there is a return of approximately \$2.50 in economic activity.

The National Institutes for Health, the main funder of biomedical research, awarded about \$35 billion in grants to research groups last year, including for the University of California.¹

Federal cuts and suspensions have threatened billions of dollars in scientific research funding, especially targeting California institutions like the University of California and the California State University System.

In 2025, the federal government froze or suspended \$584 million in grants to UCLA and demanded \$1 billion in fines—jeopardizing thousands of life-saving projects. Research areas at risk include cancer treatment, Alzheimer's, HIV/AIDS, pandemic preparedness, climate science, and earthquake and wild fire safety.

Without state action, California could lose its global leadership position in science, innovation, and public health and the billions of dollars in tax revenue and hundreds of thousands of high-wage jobs generated by the state's clear scientific leadership.

SOLUTION

SB 607 creates the California Foundation for Science and Health Research within the Government Operations Agency. This bill authorizes up to \$23 billion in General Obligation Bonds to fund research grants, loans, and facilities. It supports research in critical areas such as:

- Cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, and diabetes
- Mental health and addiction
- Pandemic and emerging health threats

¹ Prakash Nagarkatti and Mitzi Nagarkatti. *NIH funding cuts will hit red states, rural areas, underserved communities hardest*. University of

South Carolina March 7, 2025, Accessed: March 20, 2025.
<https://www.upi.com/Voices/2025/03/07/national-institutes-of-health-cuts-impact/2641741357136/>

- Climate change, wildfire prevention, and environmental health
- Renewable energy and emerging technologies

SB 607 additionally has strict oversight and transparency standards including:

- Annual independent audits reviewed by the State Controller.
- Annual public reports detailing grants, expenditures, and outcomes.
- Public disclosure of all grant awards and funding decisions.

The bill's spending limits also stipulate that no more than 3% of funds can be used for administrative costs.

SUPPORT

United Academic Workers Local 4811 & Region 6 (Sponsors)

- University of California

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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