



## A Resolution to Continue Research & Academic Freedom

S-03-02-25D

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**Sponsor:** University of Wisconsin–Madison

**Co-sponsor/s:** Michigan State University, Indiana University, Purdue University

1. *Whereas*, federal funding, significantly grants provided by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), have long supported the idea that education should extend beyond our campuses and positively impact people's lives in substantive ways, particularly by encouraging research innovation,
2. *Whereas*, the University of Wisconsin–Madison's research alone produced cell therapies to treat cancer and heart attacks, improved medical imaging, and treatments for diabetes, testing novel treatment for Alzheimer's and more,
3. *Whereas*, every BIG 10 University engages in similar funded research that provides academic opportunities, pushes industry forward, and most importantly, saves lives,
4. *Whereas*, the Trump Administration has recently released policy proposals which would have major implications for the future of research, such as major cuts to research funding,
5. *Whereas*, the NIH will be restricted by the recent policy which intends to cap indirect payments for NIH grants at 15%, far lower than the average of 27%,<sup>1</sup> and which would result in a \$4 billion annual cut to research funding,
6. *Whereas*, indirect costs cover essential operational expenses for research, such as laboratory infrastructure and maintaining accessibility in research environments, and are a necessary component of research funding,
7. *Whereas*, cuts to indirect costs would disrupt institutional operations, hinder academic programs, and delay life-saving scientific advancements, and potentially deter the admission and retention of young scientists,

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<sup>1</sup> Supplemental Guidance to the 2024 NIH Grants Policy Statement: Indirect Cost Rates.” 2025. NIH Grants and Funding. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-068.html>.

8. *Whereas*, a researcher at Indiana University surveyed over 800 academics across the nation and found that 43% of respondents had considered leaving academia in the next 1-2 years following the release of the executive orders targeting research,<sup>2</sup>
9. *Therefore, be it resolved*, ABTS condemns recent executive actions hindering critical research and affirms its unwavering commitment to protecting research, particularly in university and academic contexts,
10. *Be it finally resolved*, the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS), as the collective voice of over 810,000 students, calls on all legislative and executive bodies to enact a permanent legislative solution for protecting research that ensures continued funding of research initiatives, especially through protecting indirect payments.

**Vote:**                      In Favor   13                        Opposed   0                        Abstentions   0  

**Therefore, the bill:**                      **PASSES**                      FAILS

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<sup>2</sup> The data reflected in this survey is not currently available to the public as it is appears in an article currently awaiting publication.