

Dear Addiction Science Defense Network,

### **Time to Act.**

The [Addiction Science Defense Network](#) (ASDN) has now completed an in-depth analysis of the dramatic changes in US federal support for addiction science that occurred during the first year of the second Trump administration. Our report, ***Addiction Science Under Siege: The 2025 Impact of Federal Actions on Research, Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery***, will be publicly released and shared with all Members of Congress on **May 7th**. We invite you to review the EMBARGOED copy and take the following actions:

1. **Endorse the letter to Congress** and encourage your colleagues and professional societies to do the same.
2. **Review the recommendations in the full report** for a variety of stakeholder groups (pp. 58–76) and consider how they may be applied to your areas of addiction science and practice.
3. **[Register](#) for the May 7th launch event** to learn more about the report's findings and implications.

[Visit this webpage](#) for access to the Letter to Congress, Executive Summary, the full report, and the Endorsement Form. ***Until May 7, please treat the report as embargoed and share only with colleagues who may wish to endorse the letter.***

### **Woke and Mirrors Dept.**

[Trump's Anti-Woke Obsession Is All Over His 2027 Budget](#) Although the FY 27 budget proposal recently announced by the Trump administration is likely to be modified by Congress, it does reflect the priorities of the administration, which have been no secret during the past year: build up the military while cutting the budgets of most other federal agencies, including the NIH and CDC support for addiction research and practice. As noted above in the ASDN report, ***Science Under Siege***, the impact has not only reduced the budgets for research and services, it has thrown the federal bureaucracies charged with scientific research and public health into disarray, causing delays, confusion and damage.

### **Alphabet Soup Dept.**

Last week's Weekly Update reported that the FY27 budget proposal submitted to Congress did not mention the plan then under consideration consolidate NIMH, NIDA and NIAAA. While that statement was technically correct, further review of the NIH budget proposal (see pp. 113-21: <https://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/pdfs/FY27/Consolidated%20Overview%20of%20FY%202027%20Budget.pdf>) provides insight into the Trump administration's priorities for the FY27-28 budget to come. In

brief, the FY 2027 “drug control methodology is adjusted to align with the proposed reorganization of NIAAA and NIDA into NISUAR,” i.e., the National Institute of Substance Use and Addiction Research (NISUAR), which “will support research in pursuit of the objectives of the National Drug Control Strategy.”

“The FY 2027 President’s Budget proposes NISUAR as a newly streamlined Institute consisting of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The mission of these Institutes will be integrated into NISUAR. As relates to the National Drug Control Strategy, NISUAR’s mission will be to generate and disseminate fundamental knowledge about the adverse effects of alcohol and other substances on health and well-being, and apply that knowledge to improve diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of substance use-related problems, across the lifespan.”

The “Drug Control Strategy” rationale for this merger is not clear. The proposed budget presupposes the reorganization and consolidation of numerous agencies, including CDC, SAMHSA, NIAAA and NIDA, under the as yet to be approved by Congress “Administration for a Healthy America” ([HHS Tries Again to Sell Congress on Administration for a Healthy America](#)). According to this report, the “NISUAR, which hasn’t been publicly discussed prior to its quiet unveiling in the 2027 budget request, would represent a 12 percent funding cut from what NIDA and NIAAA received in the previous cycle.” <https://filtermag.org/hhs-budget-administration-for-a-healthy-america/>. It’s anybody’s guess where all of this is going but it seems like a recipe for alphabet soup confusion without a clear rationale for improving public health by cutting budgets at the same time.

## **RFK Jr in the Hotseat**

[Controversies surrounding RFK Jr’s actions](#) as HHS Secretary play out in congress this week and next. He will be questioned about the approximately 12% reduction in the requested budget, largely targeting NIH, cutting grants and programs, and narrowing federal guidance for vaccines and such. As found in the Axios article:

“**Sen. Shelley Moore Capito** (R-W.Va.), chair of the Appropriations health subcommittee, said she plans to seek assurances that National Institutes of Health grants, funding for substance abuse and other expenditures the administration previously targeted are flowing.”

## **The World is on Fire Dept.**

[https://www.democracynow.org/2026/4/16/usaid\\_whistleblower](https://www.democracynow.org/2026/4/16/usaid_whistleblower) A new book, *Into the Wood Chipper*, “estimates up to 14 million people will die over the next five years alone, unnecessarily, due to the cuts to USAID, if that’s not rectified. And we’re already starting to see the impacts. In fact, 750,000 people have already died, most of those children, according to conservative estimates. And we’re seeing, as bad as it is that we’re seeing so far, the worst, unfortunately, is yet to come, with the next generation of children who are unable to get immunizations, with children being born with HIV at high rates, when just a year ago those numbers were near zero. ...unless we’re able to make some changes, we will, unfortunately, be seeing those impacts years to come.”

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### **Got Something to Share?**

We're always looking to highlight the great work happening across our network! If you have **announcements, articles, reports, or anything else relevant to addiction science and practice** that is worth sharing, we'd love to feature it in the ASDN Weekly Update. Your insights and enthusiasm are vital in shaping the future of ASDN—please connect with [Tom Babor](#) to share your work and learn how you can get involved.