City of Providence
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 122
Approved March 10, 2025

WHEREAS, The City of Providence recognizes the centrality of federally funded research to innovative medicine and economic growth within our city, in the nation, and in the world; and

WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funds essential research at universities, medical centers, and research institutions, including Brown University, the hospitals comprising the Brown University Health and Care New England health systems, and EpiVax, Inc., yielding vital advances in public health, clinical trials, biotechnology; and

WHEREAS, The federal government's plan to reduce indirect cost rates for all NIH grants to a universal 15% rate will severely compromise the ability of these institutions to maintain and advance critical research; and

WHEREAS, Indirect cost rate payments are necessary to the research infrastructure, laboratories, research computing, regulatory compliance, and skilled personnel that assure project safety and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Brown University, as a major research institution in Rhode Island, received over $254 million in federal research funding in fiscal year 2024 and relies on indirect cost recovery to sustain its research programs, maintain essential personnel, and contribute to scientific progress; and

WHEREAS, Brown University Health, Care New England, and EpiVax, Inc. are all recipients of NIH funding, with crucial medical and public health research at Rhode Island Hospital supported by millions in NIH grants; and

WHEREAS, A reduction in indirect cost rates would force reductions and discontinuations of ongoing research and trials at these institutions to the detriment of scientific advancement, the subversion of national security, the competitiveness of the American pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries, and at the cost of human lives; and

WHEREAS, The resultant budget shortfalls could lead to the unemployment of hundreds at Brown University and other institutions in Providence, affecting research coordinators, lab managers, animal care staff, custodial and security personnel, electricians, food service workers, clinical coordinators, research nurses, and others, with additional negative effects on suppliers and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Potential pauses or losses of federal funding as proposed would disrupt the careers of research scientists, postdoctoral associates, and graduate students and threaten the continuity of research programs and leadership development; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, That the City of Providence strongly opposes the federal government's plan to reduce indirect cost rates for NIH grants and urges federal policymakers to rescind this directive and maintain appropriate indirect cost recovery rates reflective of the true costs of conducting high-impact research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Providence supports efforts led by the Rhode Island Attorney General and other state attorneys general to challenge this policy and prevent its detrimental impacts on research institutions and the public interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the director of the National Institutes of Health, the Rhode Island congressional delegation, the president of Brown University, the chief executive officer of Brown University Health, the chief executive officer of Care New England, the chief executive officer of EpiVax, Inc.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR 06 2025
READ AND PASSED

RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Mayor

Date: 3/10/2025