



# American Society of Echocardiography

## FY27 NIH FUNDING PHONE AND EMAIL SCRIPTS

### STEP 1: INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I am a [echocardiographer/ physician/ sonographer] at [Institution] in [City, State]. I'm a constituent of [Senator/Representative Last Name].

May I speak with the staffer handling health or Labor-HHS appropriations?

If they are not available, ask if you can leave a message.

### STEP 2: CLEAR FUNDING ASK

I'm calling to urge [Senator/Representative Last Name] to support at least \$51.303 billion in funding for NIH in FY27.

Sustained, predictable growth is essential to protect patients and advance cardiovascular innovation, including echocardiography.

### STEP 3: PROVIDE 'THE WHY'

**Pick one or two and expand with your personal experience.**

#### Why NIH Funding Matters for Echocardiography

- NIH-funded research has driven major advances in echocardiography, including:
  - Strain imaging techniques which allow us to detect heart disease earlier by assessing myocardial deformation.
  - 3D and 4D real-time cardiac imaging to improve visualization of heart structure and function.
  - Contrast-enhanced ultrasound improves endocardial border detection and perfusion assessment, leading to more accurate diagnoses.
  - Machine learning algorithms now assist with automated image analysis and interpretation.
  - Miniaturized and handheld devices allow point-of-care cardiac imaging, expanding access in rural and underserved areas.
- Impact Statement: These innovations have enhanced diagnostic accuracy, enabled earlier disease detection, improved monitoring, and reduced downstream healthcare costs.

#### Personalize for your State/District

- Patient Example
  - Recently, I treated a patient whose outcome was significantly improved because we were able to detect heart dysfunction early using advanced echocardiographic techniques made possible by NIH-supported research.
- Local Impact
  - In our state/district, NIH funding supports research at [local institution], sustains high-quality jobs, and drives medical innovation.
- Workforce Stability
  - Stable NIH funding protects early-career physician-scientists and ensures continued innovation in cardiovascular imaging.

#### Broader Framing

- NIH research reduces long-term healthcare costs through earlier diagnosis and better treatments.
- Every \$1 in NIH funding generates significant economic activity.
- NIH has historically received strong bipartisan support because it benefits patients in every district.
- Other nations are increasing biomedical investment, and we cannot afford to fall behind.

### STEP 4: CLOSE WITH A DIRECT ASK

Please support at least \$51.303 billion for NIH in FY27 and work to ensure timely completion of appropriations.

I would be happy to serve as a resource to your office on cardiovascular imaging and patient care.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of patients.