



Dear NORD Members and Friends:

Recently we wrote to you about the possibility of across-the-board funding cuts of approximately 8 percent that could be imposed upon NIH, FDA and other federal agencies in January 2013, with a potentially devastating effect on rare disease programs.

Under the Budget Control Act of 2011, federal programs face such funding cuts if Congress hasn't reached agreement on a budget deficit reduction plan.

Last week, the White House Office of Budget and Management (OMB) released a report on the possible effects of these funding cuts, known as "sequestration", on federal agencies. The cuts could result in the loss of 1,200 FTEs at FDA alone. They could negate much of the anticipated benefit from this summer's *FDA Safety and Innovation Act*.

At NIH, the result would be equally devastating. The cuts would slice \$2.5 billion from a \$30 billion budget, resulting in the loss of the ability to fund about 2,300 new grants or reduced commitment to existing grants.

These cuts are not acceptable! No action in Congress is expected until after the elections in November, but there is value in beginning to make our case now.

In recent weeks, NORD has been meeting with other organizations concerned about these potential cuts, including the Coalition for Health Funding (<http://publichealthfunding.org>). It is our fervent hope that Congress and the President will reach agreement on a deficit reduction plan before January so that the cuts won't be implemented.

But in the meantime, we encourage you to submit a letter to your elected officials through NORD's Legislative Action Center to let your elected officials know that Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) programs, including medical and scientific research, education, public health and more, have already borne more than their fair share of responsibility for deficit reduction.

We encourage you to personalize your letter by including information about how a rare disease has affected you or your family.

NORD will continue to keep you informed as this situation unfolds.

[Read NORD's letter, personalize it, and submit it to your elected officials.](#)