

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)

Press Conference Featuring Senate Democrats' Guests for President Trump's Joint Address

March 4, 2025

[VIDEO]

Dr. Paul Lange: Thank you. I'm a cancer surgeon researcher, and I'm here to plead against the proposal to cut indirect costs from the average of 50% to 15%. That's the money that funds that the institutions that house all these researchers that pays for all the various infrastructure.

And make no mistake about it, it will drastically halt, if not halt, the amazing medical research that is being conducted, and will greatly just dissuade these young people who -- MDs, PhDs. MD-PhDs -- who forgo wealth and fame and go there for the discovery and to help human flourishing.

We'll lose whole generation of researchers, and it would be unfortunate now because we're standing because of the Human Genome Project and CRISPR and many other things at the hallmark of a cornucopia of unbelievable amounts of things that will be coming in terms of medical advances.

Yes, maybe we need to make some cuts, but I would plead that we do it with a surgeon scalpel and not a sludge hammer. Make no mistake about it, the advances in medical research and in therapies for humans will continue.

We are the envy of the world in terms of biomedical research. We won't be if this kind of thing happens. The research will continue, but we'll be taking a back seat. So, I'm pleading that we think carefully about this tree of unbelievable research. Yes, prune the branches, but don't take a chainsaw and cut down the whole tree. It is very hard to grow back. Thank you.