# Congress of the United States
## Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plays in better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the program level for the agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 should be at least $44.7 billion, $3 billion above the final FY20 funding level, to reflect the rising costs and increasingly interdisciplinary nature of biomedical research. At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs as well as our international leadership in biomedical research.

In the last few years, medical research has led to new therapies that are transforming patient care for diseases such as sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, and through the use of CAR-T cells, certain types of cancer. Providing $44.7 billion for the NIH would build on the recent steady, sustained increases for the NIH since FY 2015 that have made such accomplishments possible. We are at the tip of the iceberg of new life-saving innovations. Imagine what we can accomplish with continued robust investments in medical research, from making strides to combat antimicrobial resistance, to harnessing the power of personalized medicine to treat disease, and more. The critical investments we make in biomedical research are our nation's best hope in finding cures and treatments of diseases that affect millions of Americans. For these reasons, more than 330 organizations representing patients, scientists, health professionals, educators, institutions, and industry support this funding recommendation.

The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone but has led to major achievements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as well as historically prevalent diseases like Alzheimer's, heart disease and Parkinson's. In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 300,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state in America. In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH not only as a research agency improving the health of all Americans, but also as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs.

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We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least $44.7 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2021.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Peter T. King
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
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Brian Higgins
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Marc Veasey
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