

March XX, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role played by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the NIH receives at least \$32 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. We feel this amount is the minimum level of funding needed to reflect the rising costs associated with 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.

Over the past decade, our nation's investment in NIH has often fallen short of what is needed to meet our research needs. Since 2003, Congressional appropriations for our nation's greatest research institution have stagnated and failed to keep pace with inflation. We can already see the wide-ranging impact this has had, with dramatically lower grant application success rates and less money available for new researchers seeking their first grant. Students are receiving a world-class education at American universities only to graduate and seek research positions in China, India, or other nations that emphasize investment in biomedical research.

Full funding for NIH is critical if the agency is to continue to serve as the world's preeminent medical research institution and our best hope for finding cures, improving treatments, and gaining a better understanding of the complex causes of diseases that affect millions of Americans. The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone but has led to major advancements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as well as historically prevalent diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and Parkinson's.

Critical medical research at NIH is on the cutting edge inspiring American researchers and scientists into vital fields. Increased funding for the NIH would allow, for example, the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to speed up its development of cell culture-based influenza vaccines. Currently, annual influenza vaccines are developed and manufactured using a 50 year old technology involving chicken eggs. Switching to a cell culture-based process could

shave weeks off the current six to nine month production process. In addition, it would allow for the rapid adjustment to changes in the annual flu, as is happening this year, or in the event of an emergency. Cell culture-based vaccines would be available to people with egg allergies that currently are not able to receive annual flu vaccines.

In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 400,000 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 as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs. We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least \$32 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2016. Please contact Audrey Smith (Rep. McKinley) at [audrey.smith@mail.house.gov](mailto:audrey.smith@mail.house.gov), Erica Powell (Rep. Carson) at [erica.powell@mail.house.gov](mailto:erica.powell@mail.house.gov), Matt Weiner (Rep. Susan Davis) at [matt.weiner@mail.house.gov](mailto:matt.weiner@mail.house.gov), or Jamie Tricarico (Rep. King) at [Jamie.Tricarico@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jamie.Tricarico@mail.house.gov) with any further questions.

Sincerely,

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

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Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress

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Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

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Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

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Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress

/s  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

/s  
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

/s  
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

/s  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

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Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

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Mike Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

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John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

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Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

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Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

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Bill Pascrell Jr.  
Member of Congress

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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

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Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

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Earl Blumenauer  
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Member of Congress