

March 28, 2014

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 Jack Kingston
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 Kingston 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) 2015. 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. For instance, NIH funding has also been supporting the critical research in traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and strokes in medical institutions across the country through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Through this research

scientists have be able to devise therapies to treat brain injury in our nation's veterans and improve long-term recovery of function for stroke victims.

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 2015. Please contact Devon Seibert (Rep. McKinley) at devon.seibert@mail.house.gov, Erica Powell (Rep. Carson) at erica.powell@mail.house.gov, Matt Weiner (Rep. Susan Davis) at matt.weiner@mail.house.gov , or Jamie Tricarico (Rep. King) at Jamie.Tricarico@mail.house.gov with any further questions.

Sincerely<

/s
David McKinley
Member of Congress

/s
Susan Davis
Member of Congress

/s
Andre Carson
Member of Congress

/s
Peter T. King
Member of Congress