

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

**Support Funding for the National Institutes of Health**

**Deadline: March 31, 2017**

Dear Colleague:

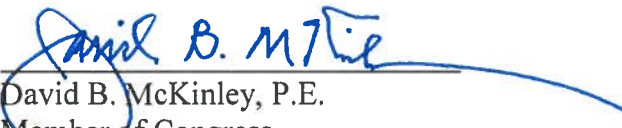
Please join us in supporting the vital role that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plays in our nation by signing the bipartisan letter below to the House Committee on Appropriations. We are requesting funding of at least \$2 billion above the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 enacted level, which accounts for inflation, for NIH's research into diseases that affect millions of Americans, including Alzheimer's, diabetes, and cancer.


Over the past few years, the critical research at NIH has been impacted by repeated cuts in the midst of a fragile economy. Due to its role in job creation and providing valuable, innovative biomedical research, our nation depends on NIH's contributions to our economy and a strong health care system.

The future success of our nation as a leader in health care depends on access to the best education, prevention, and treatments. Progress in this area can only be achieved if we continue to support state of the art research. Therefore, we ask you to join us by supporting full funding for all of the vital programs at NIH.


We encourage you to continue to support funding for the NIH by joining this letter **no later than COB on March 31, 2017**. If you have any questions or would like to sign on, please contact Zach Bunshaft at [zach.bunshaft@mail.house.gov](mailto:zach.bunshaft@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

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

  
Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

  
Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

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

March 31, 2017

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
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 Frelinghuysen 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 achieving better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request an FY18 appropriation of \$36 billion to reflect the rising costs of biomedical research. Therefore we respectfully request that the NIH receives an increase of at least \$2 billion above Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. This amount, which accounts for inflation, 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. Although a modest increase was included in the 2016 end of the year spending package, Congressional appropriations for our nation's greatest research institution have 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.

The 114<sup>th</sup> Congress made a down payment on continued advancements at the NIH through the passage of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures law. While that funding will benefit the Precision Medicine and BRAIN initiatives as well as the Cancer Moonshot, this request for discretionary funding is necessary for the NIH to continue 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 \$36 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2018. Please contact Margie Almanza (Rep. McKinley) at [margie.almanza@mail.house.gov](mailto:margie.almanza@mail.house.gov), Nathan Bennett (Rep. Carson) at [nathan.bennett@mail.house.gov](mailto:nathan.bennett@mail.house.gov), Matt Weiner (Rep. Susan Davis) at [matt.weiner@mail.house.gov](mailto:matt.weiner@mail.house.gov), or Jamie Matese (Rep. King) at [jamie.matese@mail.house.gov](mailto:jamie.matese@mail.house.gov) with any further questions.

Sincerely,

  
David B. McKinley, P.E.

  
Susan Davis

  
André Carson

  
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