



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

June 17, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, a coalition of nearly 400 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, thanks you for your ongoing leadership in maintaining the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a key national priority. As Congress moves forward with the fiscal year (FY) 2022 spending bills, we write to urge you to significantly boost the FY 2022 allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Education) spending bill. A healthy allocation will ensure the subcommittee is able to invest fully in the NIH and the entire network of agencies and programs that work together to improve the health of all Americans.

We are immensely grateful for your leadership over the last six years in providing strong bipartisan investments in the NIH after over a decade of effectively flat budgets. Even with this extraordinary growth, the NIH only is able to fund approximately 1 in every 5 promising proposals, with some institutes as little as 1 in 9, leaving potentially life-saving science on the table. The global COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the value of the nation's long-standing commitment to the NIH, the need to remain vigilant in providing robust support for fundamental research as we do not know when or from where the next threat will come, and the consequences of underfunding key public health priorities.

We urge Congress to apply the same bipartisan approach that has been so productive in supporting the NIH specifically to swiftly developing a Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee allocation that will help facilitate timely enactment of an appropriation that advances the pace of medical research, the career trajectories of students and early-career investigators, and hope for patients and their families. To fully harness novel research tools and partnerships against existing threats and in preparation for the next pandemic and other emerging challenges, we must continue the forward momentum of above-inflation investments in the NIH. For FY 2022, the Ad Hoc Group recommends [at least \\$46.1 billion for the NIH base program level budget](#), a \$3.2 billion increase over the NIH's program level funding for FY 2021, in addition to funding Congress may provide for targeted initiatives such as the president's Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health proposal.

Providing a significant increase for the Labor-HHS-Education allocation will help facilitate such an investment in FY 2022 and position both the NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services broadly to deliver on the promise of medical research. We look forward to working with you on our mutual goal of supporting medical research as a part of the broader public health continuum to improve the health of all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tannaz Rasouli'.

Tannaz Rasouli
Executive Director

cc:

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education