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ASPET STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO FY2024 APPROPRIATION PROCESS

ASPET is profoundly concerned about the funding levels for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers of Disease Control (CDC), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the FY2024 appropriations cycle. Our concern is rooted in the abrupt step back from Congress in funding our critical health and science agencies from the passages of the CHIPS and Sciences Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 which appropriated and funded science agencies at levels needed to be champions of science innovation and public health in the world.

While ASPET did not fully agree with the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2023's discretionary spending caps, we understood the need for negotiations to pass the debit ceiling limit. However, we did not expect that the negotiated spending caps would become a millstone around the neck of progress.

The House Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) and Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) bills cut the NIH budget by \$3.8 billion impacting every American. The proposed cuts would impact scientific innovation and progress that is necessary for improving the health of all people jeopardizing lifesaving medical research and impacting patients and their families. The LHHS bill also breaks with the Appropriation Committee's tradition of letting science opportunity dictate spending priorities when the bill specifically targets certain institutes and centers for spending cuts. This step creates an environment where future science breakthroughs will be missed because the science does not conform with a political narrative. While we wait for the House to pass their LHHS and CJS bills, we implore them to prioritize investment in NIH by funding them with a minimum of \$51 billion in order to meet the demands of the biomedical research enterprise.

We want to commend the Senate for their bipartisan approach and work on its LHHS, Education and Related Agencies funding bill. The increased funding shores up a deflated budget apportionment, however it does not allow for the future investments that are needed to impact and improve the scientific research enterprise. We ask the Senate to look for ways to further fund the NIH to meet the growing demands that NIH is asked to address every year.

This year's appropriation process shows the need for continued engagement by the science community on the importance of funding scientific and biomedical research. The world continues to advance and without consistent and adequate funding streams, America has the potential to lose its place as a leader in science.

ASPET continues to advocate for increased federal funding through its various coalitions and Hill visits. ASPET will participate in the 2023 Rally for Medical Research Hill Day where over 100 advocates will attend Congressional meetings to highlight the importance of biomedical research and ask for sustained funding to allow for the advancement of cures and therapeutics.

Transforming Discoveries into Therapies

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