November 10, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairman Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the House works to craft appropriations legislation before the current continuing resolution expires on December 9, 2016, we write to express our strong support for increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In any forthcoming appropriations legislation for FY 2017, we urge you to work with your Senate colleagues to ensure NIH receives a funding level of no less than $34 billion, equal to the level approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee, in order to maintain America’s role as a global leader in biomedical research and groundbreaking medical discoveries.

On a bipartisan basis, members of the 114th Congress have repeatedly demonstrated our clear and unambiguous support for strengthening investments in NIH. We know this funding helps us push the boundaries of scientific knowledge, advance promising research and offer hope to millions of Americans suffering from heartbreaking diseases. Federal funding for this life-saving research is also a key economic driver for our nation, supporting more than 400,000 jobs and generating over $60 billion in new economic activity. It delivers a significant return on our investment today and for generations to come.

While the increase included in last year’s omnibus appropriations bill was an important step, we remain concerned that federal investments in biomedical research have failed to keep pace with inflation over the last 13 years. By failing to hold NIH funding constant with other rising costs, Congress has allowed the agency’s purchasing power to diminish by nearly 20 percent since 2003. As other countries’ investments in research continue to grow at a far faster pace than those made by the U.S., it is more critical than ever that we act to reverse this trend.

Insufficient funding for NIH has a serious, wide-ranging impact on our nation’s health and our capacity for medical innovation in the 21st century. If we are serious about breaking new ground in our understanding of complex and life-threatening conditions, then it is absolutely essential we increase funding for NIH. Simply put, we cannot hope to accelerate the development of new cures, therapies and vaccines without additional resources for research. Particularly given the significant investments in NIH approved earlier this year by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, we feel strongly that now is the time to recommit to America’s long-term health and prosperity.
While we understand the difficult fiscal challenges you face, we urge you to prioritize the important role NIH plays in medical innovation and economic growth by funding the agency at an annual level of no less than $34 billion. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which will make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley
Member of Congress

Peter T. King
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

David E. Price  
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Toby Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress
Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
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Niki Tsongas  
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Bill Foster  
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John Garamendi  
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Al Green  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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Karen Bass  
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Mike Doyle  
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Alan Lowenthal  
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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Hakeem S. Jeffries  
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Brian Higgins  
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Carolyn B. Maloney  
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Stephen F. Lynch  
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William R. Keating  
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Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell  
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Brenda L. Lawrence  
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Mark Takano  
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Ted W. Lieu  
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Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
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Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
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Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
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Cedric L. Richmond  
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Albio Sires  
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
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Don Young
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Bradley Byrne
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Robert J. Dold
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Cheri Bustos
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Joaquin Castro
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G. K. Butterfield
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Charles B. Rangel
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Chellie Pingree
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
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Matt Salmon  
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Chris Gibson  
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Maxine Waters  
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
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Beto O'Rourke  
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Alma Adams  
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Marcia L. Fudge  
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Richard E. Neal  
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Ron Kind  
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress