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The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chair,
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt, Cole, Cochran, and Rogers, and Ranking Members Murray, DeLauro, Mikulski, and Lowey:

The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) appreciates this opportunity to thank you for your leadership in championing sustained, real growth in medical research funding, and to urge inclusion of the Senate-proposed \$34.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in a final fiscal year (FY) 2017 spending package by the end of this calendar year.

ASPET is a 5,000-member scientific society whose members conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research in academia, government, large pharmaceutical companies, small biotech companies, and non-profit organizations. The research efforts of our members help develop new medicines and therapeutic agents to fight existing and emerging diseases and relies on the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research supported by NIH.

In addition to improving patient health, the medical research enterprise also drives local and national economic activity, strengthens U.S. competitiveness in an increasingly innovation-based global marketplace, and inspires future generations of scientists to commit to careers in research.

Your bipartisan commitment to reliable and meaningful growth in the NIH budget is essential to continuing the momentum of the investment in NIH made in FY 2016. To that end, ASPET strongly supports an approach to the final FY 2017 spending package that maximizes the federal support for NIH and avoids a long-term continuing resolution (CR). Aside from the budget implications, a long-term CR would create inefficiencies and add uncertainty to a system that is already under stress. We strongly urge lawmakers to make finalizing the FY 2017 appropriations a priority.

ASPET recognizes the challenge that appropriators face; but we encourage Congress and the Administration to continue working in a bipartisan manner to relieve pressure on discretionary spending and ensure any final budget agreements reflect a strong commitment to the nation's health.

Once again, we commend you for continuing to recognize NIH as a critical national priority, and we look forward to working with you to secure \$34.1 billion for the agency in FY 2017.

Sincerely,

David R. Sibley, Ph.D.
President

