

CIRCULATING FOR SIGN ON



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

DATE, 2021

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your past leadership in championing sustained, real growth in medical research funding. As Congress begins to draft a final fiscal year (FY) 2022 spending package, the ### undersigned members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research urge you to invest robustly in agencies and programs to improve the nation's health and well-being, including base funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as a key national priority and to finalize the appropriations process as expeditiously as possible. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, dedicated to enhancing the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research supported by the NIH.

We greatly appreciate that both the House-passed (H.R. 4502) and Senate draft Labor-HHS-Education spending bills include strong increases for the NIH base in FY 2022, which would provide greater hope and opportunity for every patient awaiting a cure, every researcher working toward the next breakthrough, and every aspiring scientist considering a career in the lab. **To maximize the potential of medical research to make rapid progress toward these goals, we urge you to provide at least \$46.4 billion for NIH's base, as included in the House-passed bill.** Continuing the momentum of the prior six years of bipartisan support for meaningful funding growth in the NIH's existing institutes and centers is key to ensuring that the nation can continue to accelerate the development of life-changing cures, pioneering treatments and diagnostics, and innovative preventive strategies.

Additionally, we appreciate that both bills ensure that the new investment for the proposed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) supplements, rather than supplants, the NIH's base. While complementary, NIH and ARPA-H have distinct and important missions. As such, investment in ARPA-H must not come at the expense of the NIH base. Instead, to fully realize the benefits of the envisioned new entity while simultaneously allowing NIH to keep pace with discovery, an FY 2022 appropriation of at least \$46.4 billion for NIH's base budget is

needed. Prioritizing strong investments for foundational research discoveries funded by the NIH will be critical to the success of the visionary new research initiative, particularly as it builds its operational capacity in its inaugural year and beyond. Likewise, avoiding further delays in finalizing funding determinations will enable both ARPA-H and NIH's planned and existing programs to be maximally efficient and strategic in their work in FY 2022.

To that end, our organizations strongly support an approach to the final FY 2022 spending package that avoids additional CRs past December. Aside from the budget implications, CRs create inefficiencies and add uncertainty to a system that is already under stress with the continued reverberations of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly urge you to work swiftly in securing bipartisan, bicameral agreement on topline discretionary spending allocations and to ensure any final budget agreement reflects a strong commitment to the nation's health.

Once again, we commend you for continuing to recognize the incomparable value of the federal investment in the NIH, and we look forward to working with you to secure \$46.4 billion for the agency's base in FY 2022, in addition to funding you provide for ARPA-H.

Sincerely,

cc:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate