



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

November 19, 2008

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, I strongly urge your support for the proposed economic recovery package (S. 3689), which includes an additional \$1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Ad Hoc Group represents more than 300 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions, and industry organizations dedicated to enhancing the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, and population-based research.

Recognizing the challenges facing NIH as a result of six years of funding below the rate of inflation, this proposal will provide immediate funding to support at least 2,800 additional competitively awarded research grants to help find cures for many devastating diseases.

NIH supports groundbreaking research that results in new preventive, therapeutic, and diagnostic measures to improve the health and quality of life for all Americans. In addition, these advances also contribute to the economic strength of the nation by creating skilled jobs, new products, and improved technologies. The medical schools, teaching hospitals, universities, and research institutes where this research takes place are among the largest employers in their respective communities.

According to a study released in June 2008 by Families USA, on average, in fiscal year 2007, every dollar of NIH funding generated more than twice as much in state economic output. This means an overall investment of \$22.846 billion from NIH generated a total of \$50.537 billion in new state business activity in the form of increased output of goods and services. This same study revealed that in FY 2007, NIH grants and contracts created and supported more than 350,000 jobs that generated wages in excess of \$18 billion in the 50 states. The average wage associated with the jobs created was \$52,000. We must invest now in the NIH to maximize the benefits of scientific opportunity for our nation's fiscal as well as physical health.

Since FY 2003, NIH has lost more than 14 percent of its purchasing power due to federal funding lagging behind the rate of biomedical inflation. The agency's current budget path hinders the scientific discovery that drives the search for new and better treatments and undermines the nation's leadership in medical research. Approval of the additional funding in S. 3689 would be an important step towards reversing NIH's current funding trend and setting it on a new course, giving patients, their families and researchers renewed hope for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David B. Moore'.

David B. Moore
Executive Director