

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 2, 2016

President-elect Donald J. Trump
Presidential Transition Headquarters
1800 F Street, NW, Room G117
Washington, D.C. 20270-0117

Dear President-elect Trump:

We are writing to urge you to keep Dr. Francis Collins as the Director of the National Institutes of Health in your Administration.

As the Director for over the past seven years, his distinguished scientific experience, effective leadership skills, and long standing relationships with Members of Congress, researchers, and advocates will service the Nation and your Administration well. His previous groundbreaking work leading the Human Genome Project has garnered him worldwide respect, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and gives him the unique qualifications as both a well-respected physician-scientist and national leader.

Dr. Collins is the right person, at the right time, to continue to lead the world's premier biomedical research agency. He possesses all the attributes one should have as the Director of the National Institutes of Health – intellectual prowess, renowned scientific experience, and outstanding leadership skills. We are confident that under his leadership and with Congress' commitment to biomedical research as a national priority, the National Institutes of Health will thrive and continue to enhance the Nation's health through scientific discovery and biomedical research.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander, Chairman
Senate Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions Committee



Roy Blunt, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies



Fred Upton, Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce



Tom Cole, Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies

cc: Vice President-elect Mike Pence
Speaker Paul Ryan
Leader Mitch McConnell
Congressman Tom Price