

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and Delauro:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role played by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the NIH receives at least \$32 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. We feel this amount is the minimum level of funding needed to reflect the rising costs associated with biomedical research. At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs as well as our international leadership in biomedical research.

Over the past decade, our nation's investment in NIH has often fallen short of what is needed to meet our research needs. Since 2003, Congressional appropriations for our nation's greatest research institution have stagnated and failed to keep pace with inflation. We can already see the wide-ranging impact this has had, with dramatically lower grant application success rates and less money available for new researchers seeking their first grant. Students are receiving a world-class education at American universities only to graduate and seek research positions in China, India, or other nations that emphasize investment in biomedical research.

Full funding for NIH is critical if the agency is to continue to serve as the world's preeminent medical research institution and our best hope for finding cures, improving treatments, and gaining a better understanding of the complex causes of diseases that affect millions of Americans. The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone but has led to major advancements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as well as historically prevalent diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and Parkinson's.

Critical medical research at NIH is on the cutting edge inspiring American researchers and scientists into vital fields. Increased funding for the NIH would allow, for example, the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to speed up its development of cell culture-based influenza vaccines. Currently, annual influenza vaccines are developed and manufactured using a 50 year old technology involving chicken eggs. Switching to a cell culture-based process could

shave weeks off the current six to nine month production process. In addition, it would allow for the rapid adjustment to changes in the annual flu, as is happening this year, or in the event of an emergency. Cell culture-based vaccines would be available to people with egg allergies that currently are not able to receive annual flu vaccines.

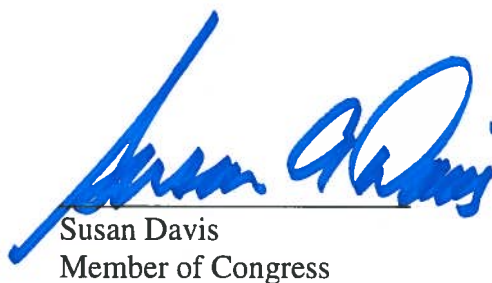
In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 400,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state in America.

In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs. We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least \$32 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2016. Please contact Audrey Smith (Rep. McKinley) at [audrey.smith@mail.house.gov](mailto:audrey.smith@mail.house.gov), Erica Powell (Rep. Carson) at [erica.powell@mail.house.gov](mailto:erica.powell@mail.house.gov), Matt Weiner (Rep. Susan Davis) at [matt.weiner@mail.house.gov](mailto:matt.weiner@mail.house.gov), or Jamie Tricarico (Rep. King) at [Jamie.Tricarico@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jamie.Tricarico@mail.house.gov) with any further questions.

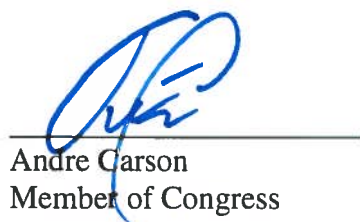
Sincerely,



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



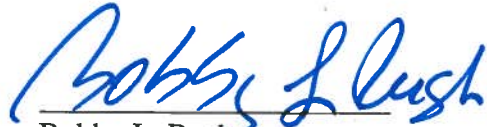
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



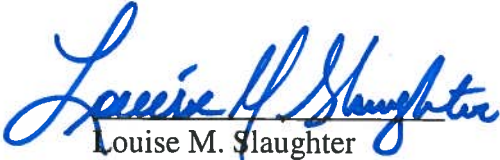
Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



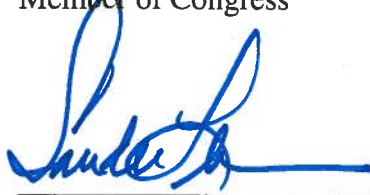
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



Mike Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



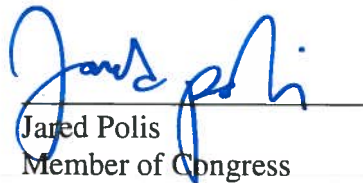
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



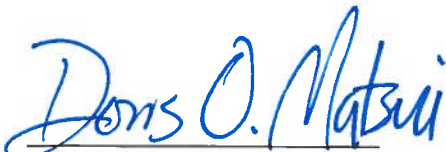
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



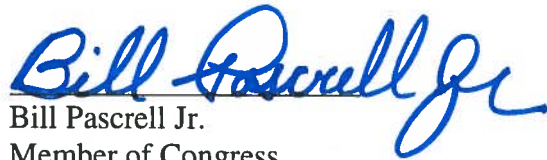
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell Jr.  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



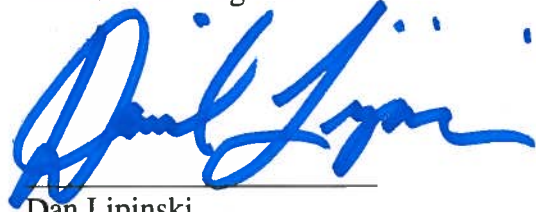
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski  
Member of Congress



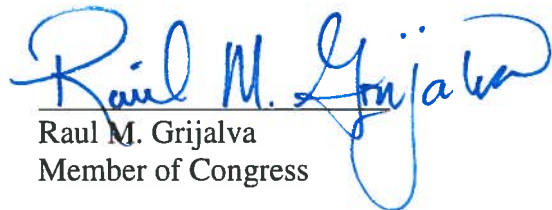
Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



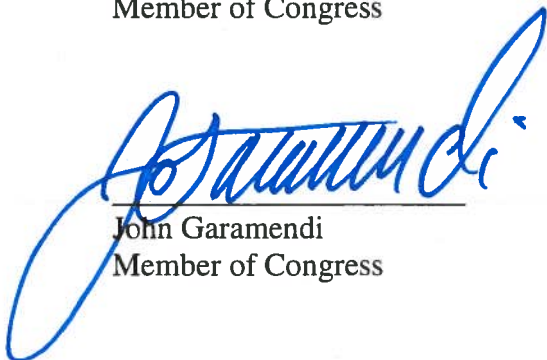
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



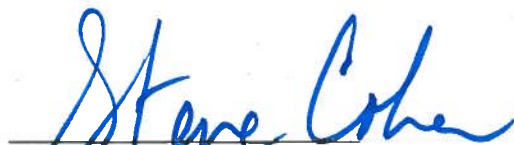
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



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Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



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Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



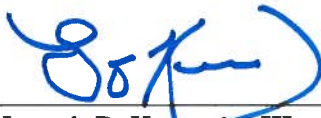
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Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



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Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



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Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress



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Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



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James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



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Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



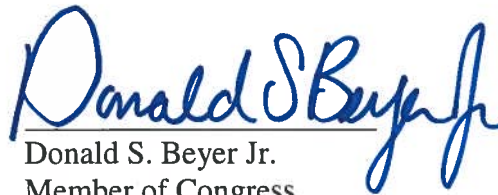
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



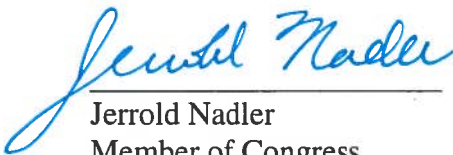
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



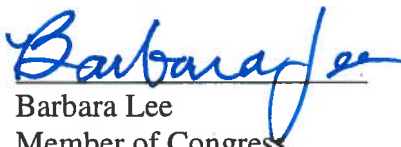
Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



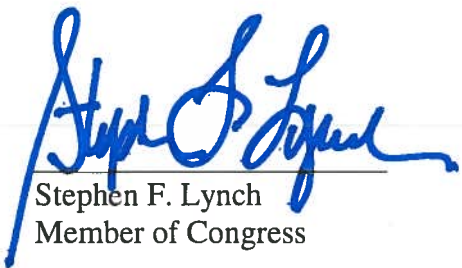
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



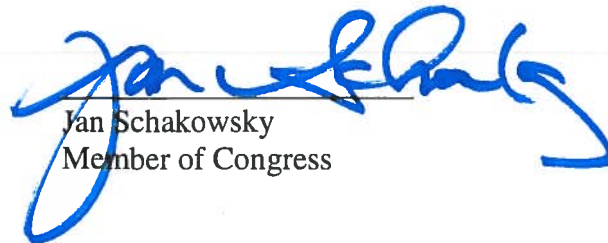
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



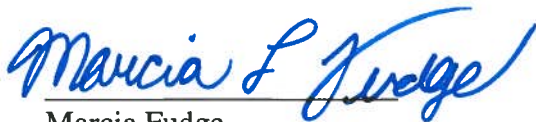
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress




Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress




Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress




William Keating  
Member of Congress


  
Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

  
Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

  
Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

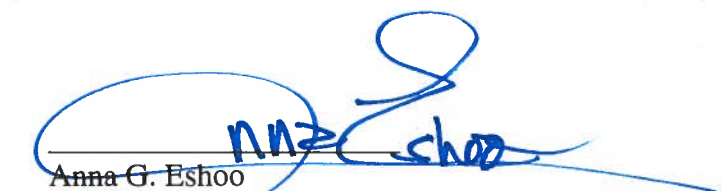
  
Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

  
Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

  
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

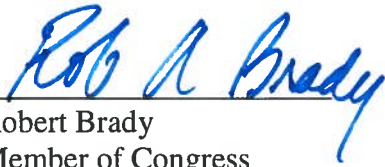
  
Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

  
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

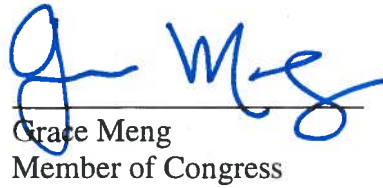
  
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Gene Green  
Member of Congress





Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



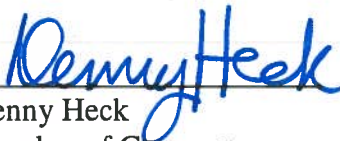
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



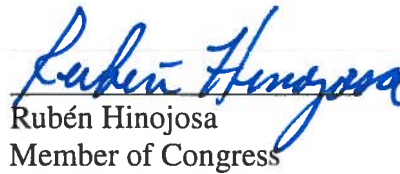
Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Anne McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



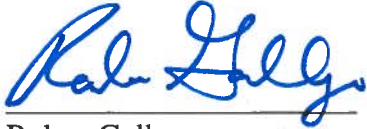
Dan Benishek, M.D.  
Member of Congress




Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Christopher P. Gibson  
Member of Congress



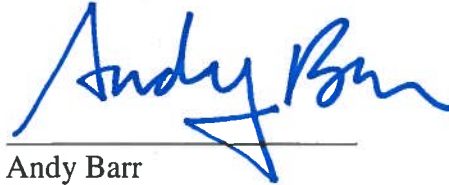
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



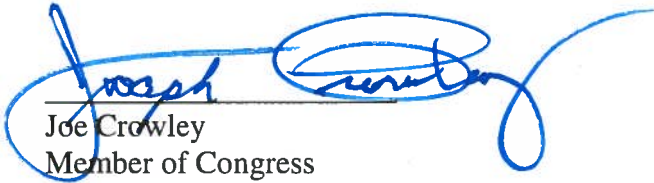
Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Dold  
Member of Congress



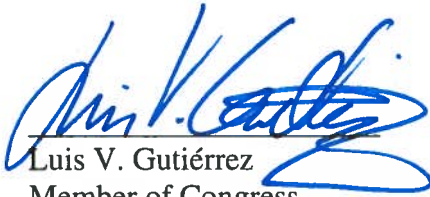
Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



Joe Crowley  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Chris Collins  
Member of Congress



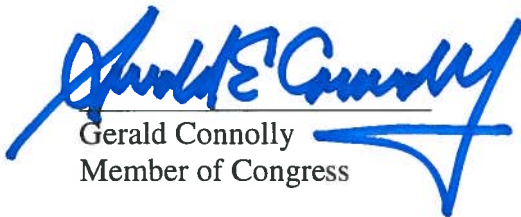
Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress




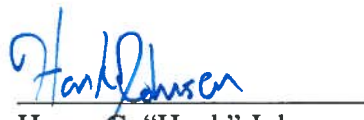
Rick Nolan  
Member of Congress


  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

  
Gerald Connolly  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress


  
Tom Marino  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress



Norma Torres  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



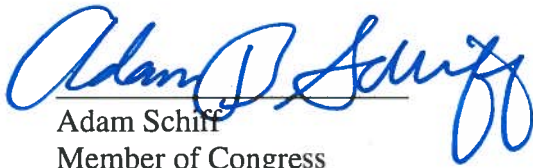
Gwen Graham  
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress



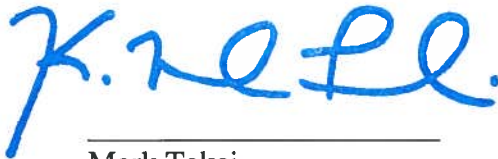
Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



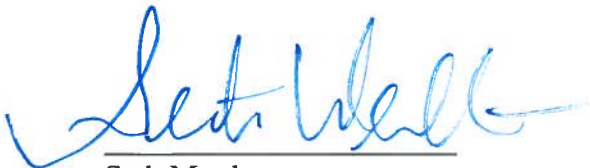
Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



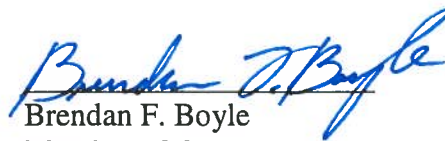
Mark Takai  
Member of Congress



David Price  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress




Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress




John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress



John Katko  
Member of Congress



John Delaney  
Member of Congress




Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress




Ami Bera  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
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Lynn Jenkins CPA  
Member of Congress




Dana Rohrabacher  
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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress

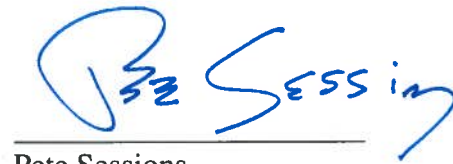
  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress


  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress


  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress


  
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress


  
Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

  
Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress

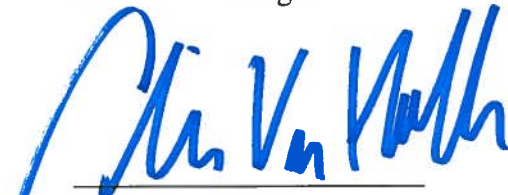
  
Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress

  
Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress


  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

  
Stacey Plaskett  
Member of Congress

  
Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

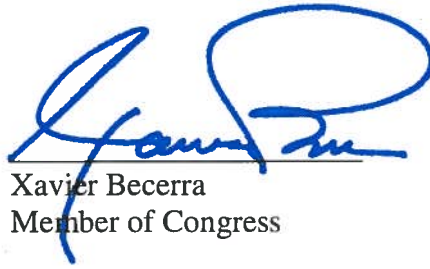
  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

  
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



Mark Walker  
Member of Congress



Xavier Becerra  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress