



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stuart Heiser

202-828-0059

sheiser@aamc.org

Ad Hoc Group Statement on Further Extension of FY 2018 Continuing Resolution

February 6, 2018 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to the “Further Extension of Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018,” the fiscal year (FY) 2018 continuing resolution (CR) released February 5th:*

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is deeply concerned that the latest CR introduced February 5, would suspend sequestration for “security” spending, without offering similar relief for so-called “non-security” spending. As members of both parties have acknowledged, national security is inseparable from health security, and the existing, non-defense discretionary spending caps impede efforts to invest fully in health care priorities to keep all Americans safe and healthy, including medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health.

Now over four months into the fiscal year, the urgency to complete FY 2018 appropriations extends beyond any single spending bill. Without a final funding level for NIH, patients must wait longer for the hope of better health, NIH staff is forced to delay promising new initiatives, and researchers cannot recruit the next generation of scientists to their labs — all avoidable consequences of lawmakers’ inaction to date.

Rather than stalling our progress toward cures, Congress should be accelerating the momentum on medical research with at least \$36.1 billion for NIH, as approved nearly unanimously by the Senate Appropriations Committee in September. On behalf of the patients, health professionals, scientists, researchers, trainees, and others represented by the Ad Hoc Group member organizations, we urge lawmakers to finalize without further delay a bipartisan, bicameral budget deal that raises the discretionary spending caps for both defense and non-defense programs and enables a robust investment in the National Institutes of Health.

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of over 300 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry. The Ad Hoc Group has one mission: to enhance the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research by increasing the funding for the National Institutes of Health.