



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release
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Ad Hoc Group Statement on Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018

March 21, 2018 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to the fiscal year (FY) 2018 omnibus appropriations bill released March 21.*

For every patient awaiting a cure, for every researcher working toward the next breakthrough, and for every aspiring scientist considering a career in the lab, today marks a day of real hope and opportunity. On behalf of all these groups, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research praises appropriators for the bold and visionary investment included in the omnibus for biomedical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

In particular, the Ad Hoc Group applauds lawmakers for enabling meaningful growth across the full scope of research at the agency while also investing in targeted initiatives to provide timely and needed focus on some of the nation's most pressing health challenges. By ensuring that these targeted investments supplement funding growth for NIH more broadly, the omnibus will help expand the agency's capacity to make progress across the full spectrum of scientific opportunity.

The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs Roy Blunt and Tom Cole and Ranking Members Patty Murray and Rosa DeLauro, along with the full Appropriations Committee leadership, have been tireless in championing – and paving – a reliable, robust budget trajectory for the NIH in recent years to accelerate the promise of treatments for patients and to ensure stability in the nation's research capacity over the long term. The Ad Hoc Group urges lawmakers to approve this increase in NIH funding so that we can continue the path to better health for patients in FY 2018 and beyond.

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.