



## THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

August 16, 2018

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

As you consider the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations (substitute amendment to H.R. 6157) on the Senate floor, the more than 300 member organizations of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research encourage you to support the bill's strong investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). 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 NIH.

The Ad Hoc Group is grateful that the bill approved nearly unanimously by the Senate Appropriations Committee (S. 3158, S.Rept. 115-289) includes \$39.1 billion for NIH, a \$2 billion increase over the comparable FY 2018 funding level. NIH funding catalyzes cures, drives science, accelerates innovation, and supports local economies. We enthusiastically support the spending bill's investment in the NIH to advance the sustained, meaningful budget growth that is necessary to make these objectives a reality.

Congress's continued commitment to NIH as a top national priority has been key in ensuring the U.S. remains the unquestioned global leader in medical research and in enabling researchers nationwide to deliver on the promise of new and better cures, diagnostics, and treatments for patients everywhere. The NIH funding level in the FY 2019 bill would allow for continued progress along the trajectory of sustained and meaningful growth necessary to support long-term, foundational research programs in every state and Washington, D.C.

The Ad Hoc Group appreciates that the Senate is considering the Labor-HHS bill as a package with the Defense spending bill. We encourage you to continue the Appropriations Committee's bipartisan momentum by supporting no less than \$39.1 billion for NIH in FY 2019 and opposing any problematic policy provisions or funding reductions as part of the final package. We look forward to working with you to secure timely enactment of a final FY 2019 funding level for the agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tannaz Rasouli".

Tannaz Rasouli, MPH  
Executive Director  
The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

*The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry that support enhancing the federal investment in the biomedical, behavioral, and population-based research conducted and supported by the NIH.*