



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

February 20, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leaders McConnell, Schumer, McCarthy and Pelosi, Chairmen Cochran, Blunt, Frelinghuysen and Cole, and Ranking Members Leahy, Murray, Lowey and DeLauro:

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, thank you for providing relief from sequestration for discretionary spending in FY 2018 and FY 2019 through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. The stringent budget caps imposed by the Budget Control Act and subsequent sequestration have served only to hamper investment in domestic programs that keep Americans safe and healthy.

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.

We are especially grateful that the agreement recognizes the National Institutes of Health as a critical national priority and acknowledges the importance of reliable funding growth for NIH. Thanks to your leadership, in recent years, NIH funding has been able to regain ground, reenergize aspiring scientists seeking careers in medical research, and provide hope to patients seeking a healthier tomorrow. With the discretionary spending relief provided in the Bipartisan Budget Act, we hope to continue this momentum of sustainable, predictable growth that is essential to expanding NIH's capacity to support medical research.

As Congress turns to the forthcoming FY 2018 omnibus, we look forward to working with you to ensure an appropriation of at least \$36.1 billion for the NIH, in addition to dedicated funding through the 21st Century Cures Act and any other funding devoted to specific priorities. Ensuring meaningful, robust growth within the NIH base budget will position the agency – and the patients who rely on it – to capitalize on the full spectrum of research from basic to translational, and across the breadth of discovery in the biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based sciences.

Once again, thank you for taking the first step in making such a vision possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tannaz Rasouli', written in a cursive style.

Tannaz Rasouli
Executive Director