



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

March 7, 2011

Dear Senator:

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, which represents nearly 300 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions and industry organizations, respectfully urges you to **oppose H.R. 1**, which would decrease funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$1.6 billion in FY 2011. **We strongly urge you to support the Continuing Resolution (CR) proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee**, which maintains NIH funding at current levels.

As passed by the House, H.R. 1 would destabilize NIH funding by \$1.6 billion (5.3 percent) below the FY 2010 level. This purportedly is a reduction of the NIH budget to the FY 2008 level of \$29.3 billion. However, when adjusted for biomedical inflation, H.R. 1 reduces NIH's funding capacity to just slightly above the FY 2001 level. Furthermore, if enacted, the entire cut would have to be absorbed in the remaining months of FY 2011, significantly intensifying the impact of the reduction.

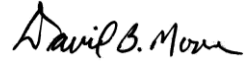
A cut of this magnitude will slow research progress and squander invaluable scientific opportunities, to the detriment of our nation's health and our ability to maintain leadership in the global innovation economy. Recent NIH-supported investments have created dramatic new research opportunities in areas ranging from genetics to behavioral research, spurring advancements and precipitating the promise of personalized medicine that will yield far-reaching health and economic benefits.

It is critically important that we, as a nation, continue to capitalize on the momentum of previous investments to drive research progress, train the next generation of scientists, create jobs, and promote economic growth. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), national expenditures for research and development as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) remained static for the United States between 2001 and 2008 while growing by nearly 60 percent in China and 34 percent in South Korea.

In this challenging budget environment, we recognize the painful decisions Congress must make as it seeks to improve the nation's fiscal stability. However, it is imperative that such efforts be grounded in the goal of securing the prosperity and well-being of the American people. The Ad Hoc Group believes the Senate alternative comes closer to achieving this goal while H.R. 1 jeopardizes the nation's medical research effort and denies hope to the millions of patients who rely on NIH-funded research for the possibility of a healthier tomorrow.

The Ad Hoc Group strongly urges you to support the National Institutes of Health as an urgent national priority by voting "yes" on the CR proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee and "no" on H.R. 1. The American people are depending on you to ensure the nation does not lose the health and economic benefits of our extraordinary commitment to medical research. We look forward to working with you to continue to improve the health of the American people through medical research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David B. Moore
Executive Director