



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

March 17, 2011

The Honorable John Abney Culberson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Culberson:

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, which represents nearly 300 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions and industry organizations, I write to express our disappointment that you voted for H.R. 1, which would cut funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$1.6 billion in FY 2011.

About 83 percent of NIH funding supports work by more than 350,000 scientists and research personnel affiliated with over 3,000 universities, medical schools, hospitals, and other research facilities in all 50 states. In FY 2010, institutions in your district, including Baylor College of Medicine, UT Health Science Center-Houston, and MD Anderson Cancer Center, received more than \$477 million in competitively awarded funds from NIH. It is very possible that researchers in your district will lose funding if the cuts included in H.R. 1 become law.

Although we recognize the need to reduce federal spending, the cuts proposed in H.R. 1 – the largest in NIH's history – 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 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. NIH's contributions also generate a wide range of secondary benefits that enhance the nation's economic well-being and global competitiveness. Each grant awarded by NIH generates about seven jobs. The reduction in chronic disability has helped to restrain long-term health care costs for the elderly. Dramatic improvements in disease treatments based on U.S. research breakthroughs have helped to maintain overall U.S. productivity and global competitiveness.

It is critically important that we 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.

We understand the difficult financial environment facing this nation but urge Congress to identify budget priorities – rather than adopt arbitrary cuts to successful agencies like NIH. Your constituents will benefit greatly from a sustained federal 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, flowing style.

David B. Moore
Executive Director