



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

April 19, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cole, Chair Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins:

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, a coalition of nearly 400 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, thanks you for your ongoing leadership in maintaining the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a key national priority. As Congress moves forward with the fiscal year (FY) 2025 spending bills, we write to urge you to significantly boost the FY 2025 allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Education) spending bill to ensure the subcommittee is able to invest fully in the work of the NIH and the entire network of agencies and programs that work together to improve the health of all Americans.

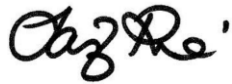
We are grateful for your leadership and contributions in successfully securing \$300 million in new resources for the NIH in FY 2024 despite the ongoing fiscal constraints. Even with these investments, the NIH requires even more support in FY 2025 to ensure that its budget does not lag further behind biomedical research inflation. The NIH only is able to fund approximately 1 in every 5 promising proposals, with some institutes as little as 1 in 8, leaving potentially life-saving science on the table, a challenge that is compounded when funding does not keep pace with inflation. As you know, investing in the NIH's base budget is essential to supporting medical advancements central to curing infectious and chronic diseases, strengthening local and regional economies, enhancing training and career opportunities for emerging scientists, and maintaining the United States' role as the global leader in medical research.

In FY 2025, we encourage you to develop a Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee allocation that allows appropriate investment to advance the pace of medical research, the career trajectories of students and early-career investigators, the U.S.'s global competitiveness, and hope for patients impacted by cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, heart disease, and the full range of other conditions. To fully harness novel research tools and partnerships against existing threats and in preparation for future public health challenges, we must resume the forward momentum of above-inflation investments in the NIH. For FY 2025, the Ad Hoc Group

recommends at least \$51.3 billion for the NIH base program level budget, a \$4.2 billion increase over the NIH's program level funding for FY 2024. In addition to maximizing the discretionary appropriation for NIH, we encourage any funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health to supplement this investment.

We recognize the challenging fiscal environment that appropriators must navigate in the context of a wholly impractical discretionary spending cap. However, investing in medical research is an urgent national priority to strengthen both the nation's physical and fiscal health. Providing a significant increase for the Labor-HHS-Education allocation will position both the NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services broadly to deliver on the promise of medical research. We look forward to working with you on our mutual goal of supporting medical research as a part of the broader public health continuum to improve the health of all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tannaz Rasouli'.

Tannaz Rasouli
Executive Director

cc:

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, U.S. Senate