



May 22, 2009

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of the more than 300 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions, and industry organizations represented by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, we write to congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of Health and Human Services and to thank you for your recent testimony in support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the nation's medical research enterprise. We also seek your help to ensure the nation is able to leverage the tremendous recent investments in medical research to ensure a brighter future through discovery, new health applications, and economic growth.

We agree with the comments you made during your confirmation hearings that NIH provides "critical support" to "efforts to discover new drugs and treatments that can prevent, treat, and cure disease" and that "[a] plan to achieve sustained growth of the NIH budget is much needed." We also agree that federal investment in NIH "will enable the U.S. to regain its leadership in the area of biomedical research, expand training opportunities for the next generation of scientists, and stimulate local economies to create jobs."

Given these shared goals, the Ad Hoc Group urges robust increases in NIH appropriations and has endorsed an increase of at least 7 percent in FY 2010. This level will help position the nation to seize the momentum that will emerge from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. ARRA offered an historic, short-term opportunity to demonstrate the vital role science plays in health and economic growth. The science community is very grateful for that opportunity and is working rapidly to move those dollars into high-quality research that will advance science and create or protect jobs. Additionally, we strongly hope the administration will agree it is important to fully leverage that investment by providing robust and sustainable increases in FY 2010 and FY 2011, as the stimulus timeframe ends.

During your confirmation hearings, you expressed your goals to strengthen NIH and focus on “the dual objectives of addressing the health care challenges of our people and maintaining America’s economic edge through innovation.” As you know, the contributions of medical research will help facilitate the goals of health care reform to improve the health and well-being of the nation. With health care costs spiraling, it is worth noting that in annual appropriations the nation invests less than \$50 per person annually for all the research through the National Institutes of Health, a wise investment to improve health and wellness, and save lives.

As a coalition representing patients, scientists, physicians and other health professionals, and research institutions, we thank you once again for your support for the life-saving research funded by the NIH, and ask for your continued leadership. We look forward to working with you and the Department of Health and Human Services 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
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

cc: Richard Turman
Dora Hughes