



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For immediate release

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Ad Hoc Group Applauds Senate Spending Allocations

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research thanks the Senate Appropriations Committee for the allocation it has provided to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) for its FY 2014 spending bill. The Labor-HHS subcommittee funds the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the largest public source of funding for medical research in the world. The Ad Hoc Group particularly thanks Senate Appropriations Chair Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) for her leadership and support of medical research and the NIH.

The Senate committee's action is in contrast to the House Appropriations Committee's decision in May to slash funding for the Labor-HHS subcommittee by nearly 19 percent. If applied evenly across all of the subcommittee's programs, this would mean a \$5.3 billion cut in NIH funding in the coming year. As researchers already grapple with a loss of purchasing power due to a decade of effectively flat budgets and the effects of a \$1.7 billion cut to NIH in the current year, the House's allocation promises to strike a devastating blow to the nation's medical research effort and to the millions of Americans who look to medical research for hope against disease and disability.

Enacted and proposed cuts in NIH funding threaten current and emerging basic research opportunities across the country, as well as the clinical studies that are essential to bring scientific discoveries from the bench to the bedside. Further, these cuts also will discourage young people from careers in medical research, risking the loss of the next generation of innovators and their ideas.

Sustained funding for medical research is essential if we are to continue to improve our nation's health, sustain our leadership in medical research, and remain competitive in today's global information and innovation-based economy.

The Senate allocations can only be achieved if Congress and the Administration can agree on a balanced deficit reduction plan that replaces the spending caps imposed by sequestration. Moreover, medical research is a long-term endeavor. The failure to pass the appropriations bills in a timely manner poses unnecessary hardships to NIH, institutions, and scientists in planning and conducting research.

Americans want cures, not cuts. Congress and the Administration must work to enact a bipartisan balanced deficit reduction plan that preserves the life-saving research funded by the National Institutes of Health and enables Congress to approve the Labor-HHS and other appropriations bills through regular order as quickly as possible.

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The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of more than 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, and population-based research by increasing the funding for the National Institutes of Health.