



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

July 8, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

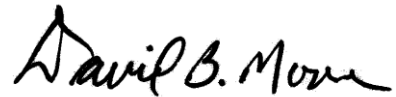
On behalf of the more than 300 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions, and industry organizations represented by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, thank you for your longstanding leadership on behalf of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We write to seek your 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. As you consider the FY 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, the Ad Hoc Group urges robust increases in NIH appropriations and has endorsed an increase of at least 7 percent in FY 2010.

A return to robust, sustainable and predictable budget growth for NIH is crucial if we are to achieve the full promise of medical research to improve the health and quality of life for all Americans – a goal we all share. It also will ensure the nation builds on the extraordinary scientific and economic momentum being created through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ARRA offered an historic, short-term opportunity to demonstrate the vital role science plays in improved health outcomes and economic growth. The science community is deeply grateful for this extraordinary opportunity and is working rapidly to move those dollars into high-quality research that will create or protect jobs while also advancing science. An increase of at least 7 percent for NIH in FY 2010 can help ensure the nation does not

lose the benefits of that noteworthy investment and takes the next crucial step by beginning sustained, long-term growth in NIH funding in the FY 2010 budget and beyond.

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 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 with a large initial 'D'.

David B. Moore
Executive Director