



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

September 18, 2018

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the more than 300 member organizations of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, I write to ask your support for the House-Senate conference agreement on H.R. 6157 (H.Rept. 115-952), which makes a strong investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as part of the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending bill in Division B. The Ad Hoc Group has one mission: to enhance the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research by increasing funding for the NIH.

The Ad Hoc Group is grateful that the conference agreement includes the Senate-passed funding level of \$39.1 billion for NIH, a \$2 billion increase over the comparable FY 2018 level. NIH funding catalyzes cures, drives science, accelerates innovation, and supports local economies. We enthusiastically support the spending bill's investment in the NIH to advance the sustained, meaningful budget growth that is necessary to make these objectives a reality.

Congress's continued commitment to NIH as a top national priority has been key in ensuring the U.S. remains the unquestioned global leader in medical research and in enabling researchers nationwide to deliver on the promise of new and better cures, diagnostics, and treatments for patients everywhere. The NIH funding level in the FY 2019 bill would allow for continued progress along the trajectory of sustained and meaningful growth necessary to support long-term, foundational research programs in every state and Washington, D.C.

The Ad Hoc Group is especially grateful that for the first time in 22 years, Congress is considering the Labor-HHS and Defense appropriations package in advance of the new fiscal year. Timely enactment of the spending bill will enable NIH to be even more strategic in its investments and avoid the uncertainty and inefficiencies associated with continuing resolutions. We encourage you to support this final package, and finalize the FY 2019 funding level for the agency, NIH-funded researchers, and the patients across the country that rely on them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tannaz Rasouli".

Tannaz Rasouli, MPH
Executive Director
The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research