



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For Immediate Release

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Ad Hoc Group Statement on Senate Passage of FY 2019 Labor-HHS Conference Agreement

September 18, 2018 – The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to Senate passage of the House-Senate conference agreement on H.R. 6157, which includes the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending bill, and funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research applauds the Senate for passing the conference agreement on the FY 2019 Labor-HHS appropriations bill and continuing its steadfast commitment to medical research supported by the NIH.

In addition to providing the hope of better health to millions of patients, NIH funding advances science, innovation, and economic growth. Marking four years of notable funding increases for the NIH, the \$2 billion increase for FY 2019 keenly reflects the sustainable, predictable growth above inflation necessary to realize the invaluable promise of new cures, diagnostics, preventions, and treatments offered through NIH.

We are grateful to Senate and Appropriations Committee leadership, including Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), Ranking Member Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.), for their dedication to timely passage of this important legislation for the first time in over two decades. Their commitment to a bipartisan approach, coupled with the agreement to invest in key national priorities through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, paved the way to this accomplishment today.

The Ad Hoc Group encourages the House of Representatives to join the Senate in passing this final spending bill, including a \$39.1 billion funding level for the NIH, before the start of the next fiscal year on October 1. Timely enactment of the spending bill will enable NIH to be even more strategic in its investments and will provide fiscal certainty to the agency, NIH-funded researchers, and the patients across the country that rely on them.

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