

September 16, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker:

The undersigned organizations, which represent patients, scientists, physicians and other health care providers, research institutions, and industry, strongly urge you to provide \$30.380 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as proposed by the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee in its FY 2009 bill, in the FY 2009 Continuing Resolution to be considered later this month. We also urge you to support the inclusion of \$500 million in additional funding for NIH as proposed in the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair's mark for the Second Supplementary Appropriations bill.

The research supported and conducted by NIH has had a profound and far-reaching impact on our nation in many important ways, serving as a catalyst for new products and technologies, creating skilled jobs, contributing to the nation's economic growth, and most importantly, safeguarding and improving the lives of all our citizens. The discoveries resulting from the investment in NIH research are driving the transformation of the practice of medicine through the development of new and personalized therapies, cures, and prevention strategies.

Yet, FY 2008 marks the fifth consecutive year that the NIH budget has failed to keep pace with biomedical research inflation, and since FY 2003, NIH has lost more than 10 percent of its purchasing power when adjusted for inflation. This not only threatens continued research progress, but undermines our nation's potential to attract new investigators and train the next generation of biomedical researchers. The funding requested in the CR serves as a much needed first installment in reversing this disturbing trend. Sustained, predictable growth in the NIH budget is essential if our nation is to maintain its position as the world leader in medical research.

Among the multitude of priorities that Congress must address in this time of funding constraints, we believe there is no higher priority than ensuring healthier, more productive lives for all. We respectfully urge you to support the additional funds for NIH in the FY 2009 Continuing Resolution.

Academic Pediatric Association
Academy of Radiology Research
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
Agfa HealthCare
AIDS Action Baltimore

AIDS Action Council
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Institute
AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Foundation of America
American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association for Women Radiologists
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Immunologists
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Anthropological Association
American Brain Coalition
American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Radiology
American Diabetes Association
American Educational Research Association
American Foundation for the Blind
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association
American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Osteopathic College of Radiology
American Pain Foundation
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
American Physiological Society

American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association (APA)
American Registry of Radiologic Technologists
American Roentgen Ray Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB)
American Society for Cell Biology
American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
American Society for Investigative Pathology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Emergency Radiology
American Society of Hematology (ASH)
American Society of Human Genetics
American Society of Nephrology (ASN)
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology (ASPN)
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
American Society on Aging
American Thoracic Society
American Tinnitus Association (ATA)
America's Blood Centers
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Academic Health Science Libraries
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Clinical Research Training
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
Association of American Universities
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
Association of Population Centers
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of Specialty Professors
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
AVAC (the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition)

Biophysical Society
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Bone Coalition
Brown University
California Healthcare Institute (CHI)
Carnegie Mellon University
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Child Neurology Society
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Children's Oncology Group
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research
Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (CAHT-BSSR)
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Coalition to Protect Research
Columbia University Medical Center
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Consortium to Respond Effectively to the AIDS TB Epidemic (CREATE)
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Duke University Medical Center
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Easter Seals
Emory University
Endocrine Society
Endometriosis Association
Epilepsy Foundation
Families USA
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences
Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network
Foundation Fighting Blindness
Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types
FRAXA Research Foundation
Friends of NICHD
Fujifilm Medical Systems
Gay Men's Health Crisis
Harvard University
Heart Rhythm Society
Hepatitis B Foundation

Hepatitis Foundation International
HIV Medicine Association
Indiana University
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
International Cancer Advocacy Network (ICAN)
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
International Myeloma Foundation
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Invitrogen Corporation
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Johns Hopkins Institutions
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
Lighthouse International
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center
Lupus Research Institute
March of Dimes Foundation
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Medical Library Association
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR)
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs
National Childhood Cancer Foundation
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Down Syndrome Society
National Health Council
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Kidney Foundation
National Marfan Foundation
National MS Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Primate Research Centers
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Sleep Foundation
NephCure Foundation
New York University

North American Brain Tumor Coalition
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Northwestern University
NASULGC, A Public University Association
The Ohio State University Medical Center
Oral Health America
Oregon Health & Science University
Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases (PKIDs)
Parkinson's Action Network
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Penn State University College of Medicine
Population Association of America
Preeclampsia Foundation
Princeton University
Project Inform
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Radiological Society of North America
Radiology Academic Council
Research!America
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Scleroderma Foundation
Simon Foundation for Continence
Sleep Research Society
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Maternal and Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Nuclear Medicine
Society for Pediatric Radiology
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Skeletal Radiology
Society of Thoracic Imaging
Society of Uroradiology
Spina Bifida Association
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook University Medical Center
Treatment Action Group
Unite 2 Fight Paralysis

University of California, Irvine Medical Center
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania Institute on Aging
University of Texas System
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Washington University in St. Louis
ZERO - The Project to End Prostate Cancer