



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

September 7, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen:

As the conference committee negotiates final funding levels in H.R. 6157, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research writes to urge your support for the Senate-passed funding level of \$39.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). 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, dedicated to enhancing the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research supported by the NIH.


While we greatly appreciate that both the House Committee- and Senate-passed bills include an increase for NIH, the Senate-passed spending bill's \$2 billion increase for medical research translates to even greater hope and opportunity for every patient awaiting a cure, every researcher working toward the next breakthrough, and every aspiring scientist considering a career in the lab. Biomedical breakthroughs have shown that the greatest research builds upon previous discoveries through continued, steady advances that rely on robust, sustained support for the NIH. Building on this foundation, the funding level included in the Senate FY 2019 bill will enable meaningful growth across the full spectrum of research supported by the NIH, while positively impacting local economies in every state and Washington, D.C. This sustained investment in NIH acts as a catalyst for a steady pipeline of basic research discoveries and helps sustain the translational and clinical efforts necessary to improve the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.

Our country still has the most impressive medical research capacity in the world. If enacted, the new funding provided by the Senate-passed FY 2019 Labor-HHS spending bill will allow the United States to keep its competitive edge in an increasingly innovation-based global marketplace. Our nation would remain a leader in medical research because of Congress's bipartisan recognition of NIH's critical role.

Additionally, as you finalize FY 2019 funding levels, we urge you to avoid partisan policy riders that may stall the bill's enactment and to continue consideration of the Labor-HHS bill in conjunction with the FY 2019 Defense bill.

Thank you for your continued support for biomedical research, and the hope it provides to patients across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tannaz Rasouli'.

Tannaz Rasouli
Executive Director
The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

Cc: Members of the Joint House and Senate Conference Committee on H.R. 6157