

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 1, 2018

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role played by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request the program level for the agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 to reflect the rising costs of biomedical research, should be at least \$38.4 billion. Therefore, we respectfully request that the NIH receives an increase of at least \$2.2 billion above the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 funding level. At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs as well as our international leadership in biomedical research.

Providing this amount to the NIH would maintain the level trajectory of \$2 billion increases for the NIH each year, accounts for biomedical inflation, and ensures that the Innovation Accounts provided through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act supplement the agency's base budget through dedicated funding to specific programs, as intended. Similarly, the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2018 appropriately recognized the importance of investments in NIH, and we note to the Committee that additional targeted funding resulting from the BBA should supplement the investment in NIH's base budget.

Over the past two decades, our nation's investment in NIH has often fallen short of what is needed to meet our research needs and, despite recent progress, past Congressional appropriations for our nation's greatest research institution have failed to keep pace with inflation. We can already see the wide-ranging impact this lag has had, with dramatically lower grant application success rates and less money available for new researchers seeking their first

grant. If we do not continue the recent momentum of adequate budget growth, we risk forcing students who are receiving a world-class education at American universities to graduate and seek research positions in China, India, or other nations that emphasize investment in biomedical research.

The critical investments we make in biomedical research are our nation's best hope in finding cures and treatments of diseases that affect millions of Americans. The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone but has led to major achievements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as well as historically prevalent diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer and Parkinson's.

In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 400,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state in America.

In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs. We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least \$38.4 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2019. Please contact Charlie Arnowitz (Rep. Carson) with any further questions.

Sincerely,

  
David B. McKinley, P.E.

  
Susan A. Davis

  
André Carson

  
Peter T. King

  
Stacey E. Plaskett

  
Rick Larsen

  
Patrick Meehan

  
Alan Lowenthal


  
Joseph Crowley

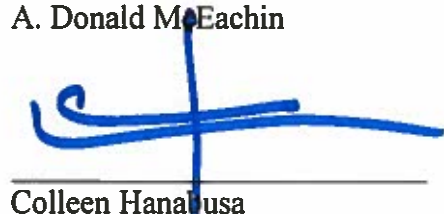
  
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A. Donald McEachin

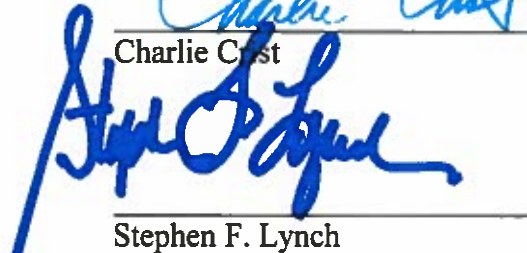
  
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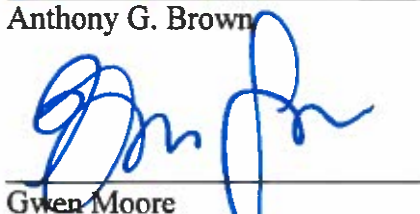
  
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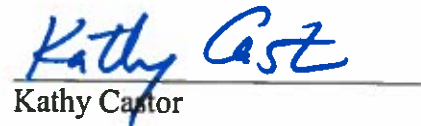
  
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Carlos Curbelo

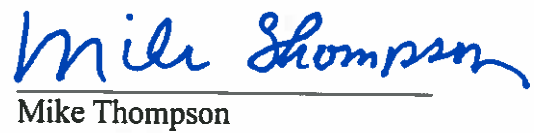
  
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Lee Zeldin

  
Kathy Castor

  
Danny K. Davis

  
Mike Thompson

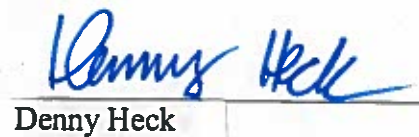
  
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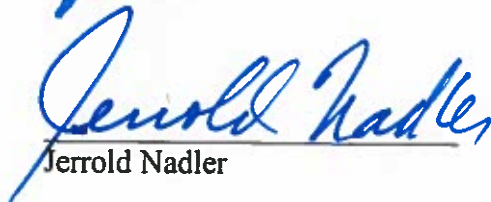
  
Denny Heck

  
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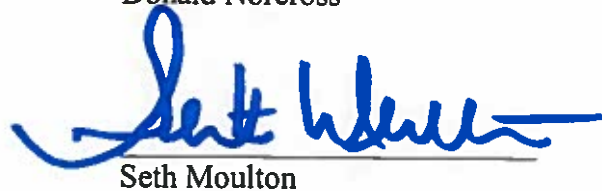
  
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David N. Cicilline

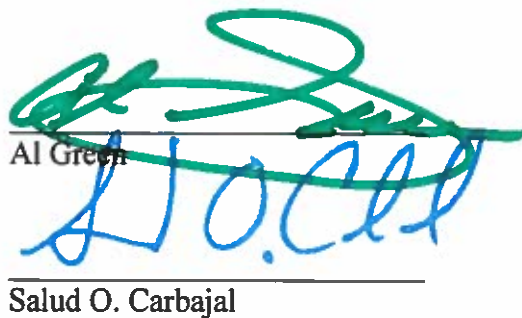
  
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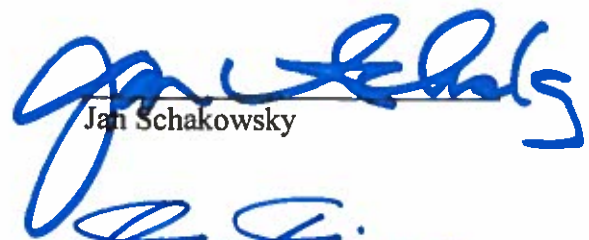
  
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Salud O. Carbajal

  
Jan Schakowsky

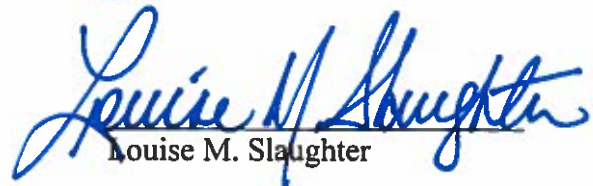
  
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Rep. Steve Knight

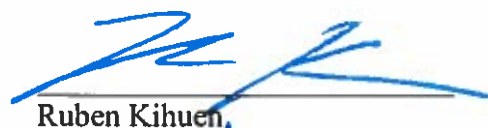
  
Suzanne Bonamici

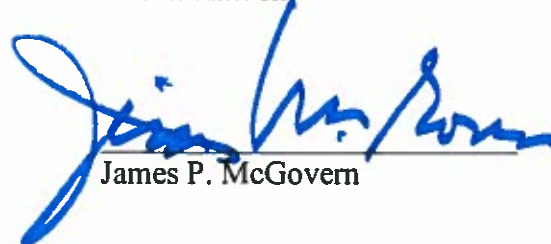
  
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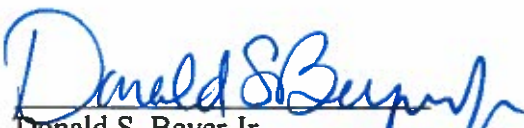
  
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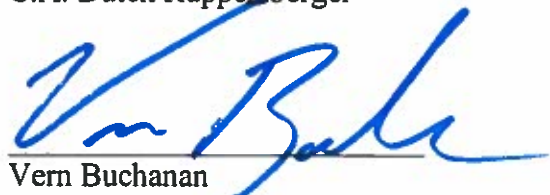
  
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John Garamendi

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson



Sean Patrick Maloney



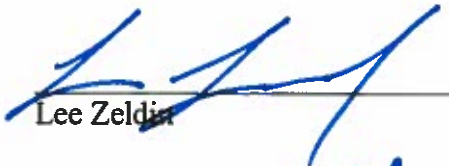
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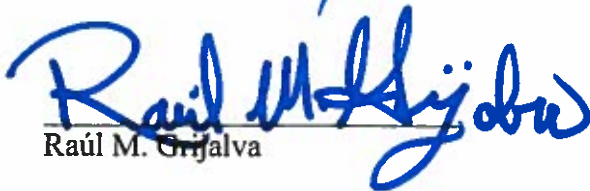
Brenda L. Lawrence



Ed Perlmutter



Lee Zeldin



Raúl M. Grijalva



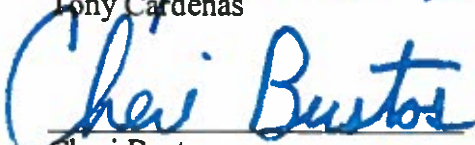
Nanette Diaz Barragan



Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Tony Cardenas



Cheri Bustos



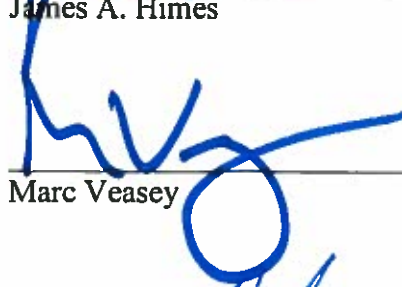
Chris Collins



Joaquin Castro



James A. Himes



Marc Veasey



Lynn Jenkins, CPA



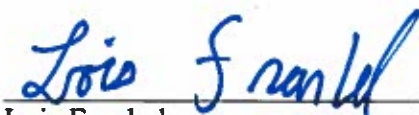
Sander M. Levin



Scott Peters



John K. Delaney



Lois Frankel



Brendan F. Boyle



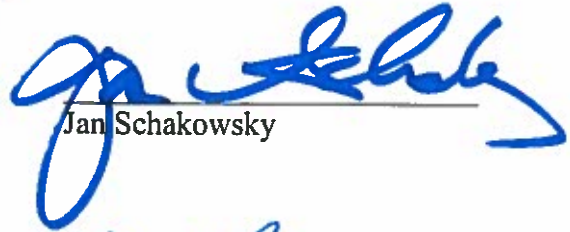
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Ted Deutch



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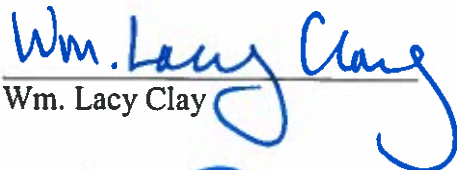
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Cedric L. Richmond



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Jamie Raskin



Tom MacArthur



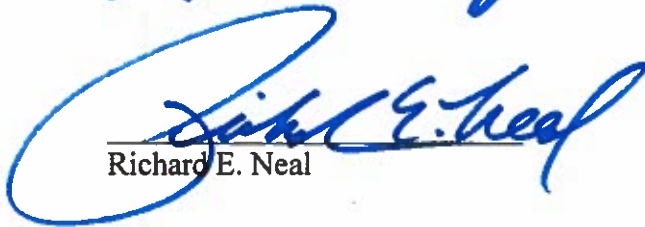
Ann McLane Kuster



Joyce Beatty



Martha McSally



Richard E. Neal



Ted W. Lieu



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.



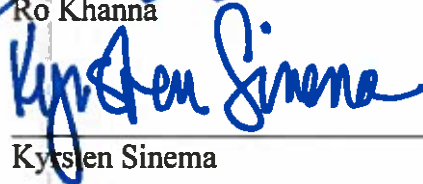
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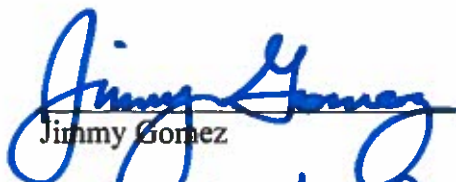
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Mike Gallagher



Kyrsten Sinema



Jimmy Gomez



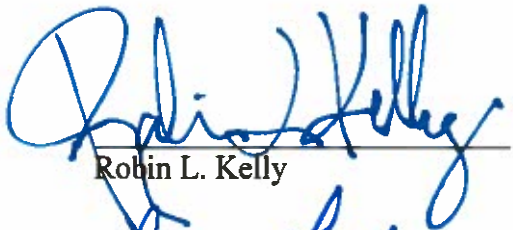
Ami Bera, M.D.



Cathy McMorris Rodgers



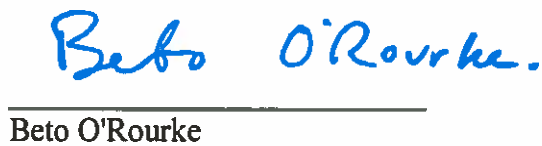
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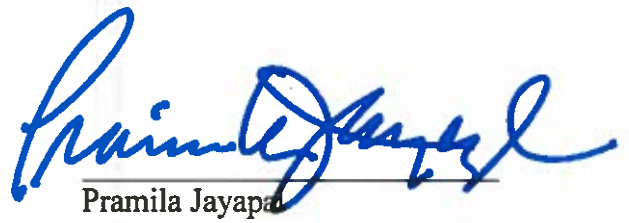
  
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Al Lawson

  
Richard Hudson

  
Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

  
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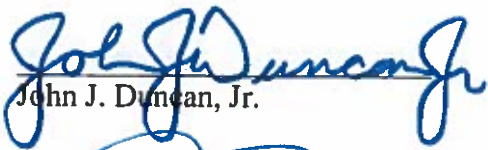
  
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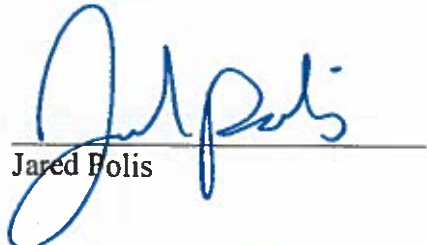
  
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