March 11, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plays in better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the program level for the agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 should be at least $44.7 billion, $3 billion above the final FY20 funding level, to reflect the rising costs and increasingly interdisciplinary nature of biomedical research. 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.

In the last few years, medical research has led to new therapies that are transforming patient care for diseases such as sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, and through the use of CAR-T cells, certain types of cancer. Providing $44.7 billion for the NIH would build on the recent steady, sustained increases for the NIH since FY 2015 that have made such accomplishments possible. We are at the tip of the iceberg of new life-saving innovations. Imagine what we can accomplish with continued robust investments in medical research, from making strides to combat antimicrobial resistance, to harnessing the power of personalized medicine to treat disease, and more. 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. For these reasons, more than 330 organizations representing patients, scientists, health professionals, educators, institutions, and industry support this funding recommendation.

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, heart disease and Parkinson’s. In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 300,000 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 not only as a research agency improving the health of all Americans, but also 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 $44.7 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2021.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

Johanna Hayes  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Jared Golden
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

David Trone
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress
William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

Denver Riggleman
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress
Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Susie Lee
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Al Lawson
Member of Congress

Max Rose
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, Jr.
Member of Congress

Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

Daniel P. Meuser
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress
Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress