

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

March 17, 2010

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-218 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As Members of Congress who strongly value the role of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), we are writing to thank you for your past support and to respectfully request your continued support for NIH funding, which is essential to sustain advances in science and the economic impacts of the research it funds. As you work to finalize the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations bills, we respectfully request a funding increase of at least 7 percent for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) compared to the Fiscal Year 2010 baseline level.

NIH is our nation's preeminent medical research institution and represents our best hope for finding cures, improving treatments, and gaining a better understanding of the diseases and conditions that affect millions of Americans. NIH research is a critical part of meeting health care challenges, strengthening our economy, inspiring the next generation of scientists and researchers, and maintaining our nation's leadership in innovation. NIH research is also essential to containing soaring medical costs. Studies show that a substantial portion of projected health care spending comes from expenses associated with managing diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's, stroke, and many other chronic or life-threatening diseases.

As you know, over the past several years, funding for NIH has not kept pace with the costs of conducting biomedical research. As a result, promising research has not been funded, clinical trials have been delayed or terminated, jobs have been lost, and talented young investigators have turned to other careers. The recent boost in NIH funding in 2009 and 2010 was a very important step toward regaining the lost potential of the last several years and rebuilding our nation's economy. NIH grants and contracts to universities and research institutions have created or supported over 350,000 jobs, spurred new state business activity, and has enabled some of the most promising research projects that have long been sidelined to begin.

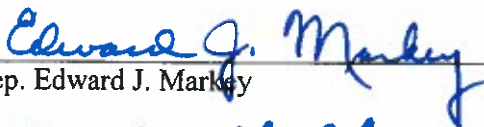
In order to make continued progress and keep pace with the cost of conducting biomedical research, the advocacy community - which includes scientists, universities, and patient groups, among others- recommends funding the NIH at a level of \$35 billion.

At a time when more than half of the top growing occupations are health care or research related, making NIH research capacity a priority will help ensure that the nation does not shelve emerging discoveries and dismantle labs. Continued investment in the NIH will build on current progress to further help the American public.

For these reasons we are seeking an increase for NIH of at least 7 percent, with some of us believing that the appropriate funding increase would be as much as 12 percent. This level of funding is essential to sustain advances in science and the economic impacts of NIH-funded research.

We understand the challenges facing the Appropriations Committee and the difficulty in supporting priority issues with limited resources. Nonetheless, we urge you to consider the wide-ranging, positive effects of investment in research on health and the economy. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
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Rep. Jackie Speier

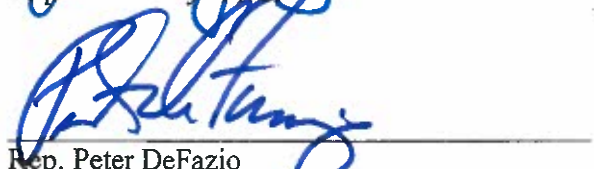
  
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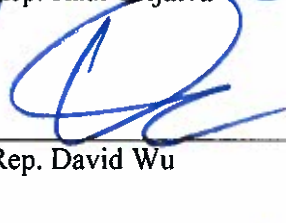
  
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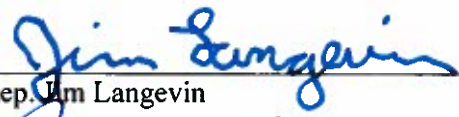
  
Rep. Raul Grijalva

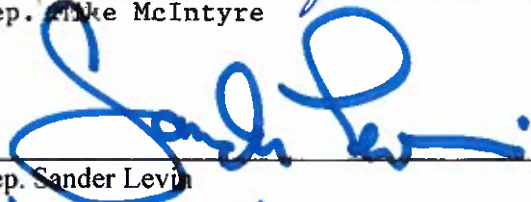
  
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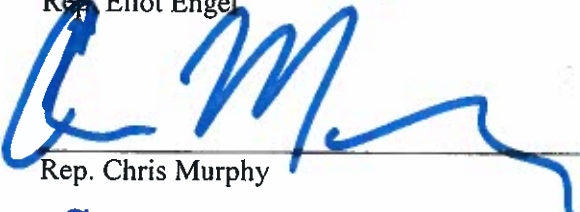
  
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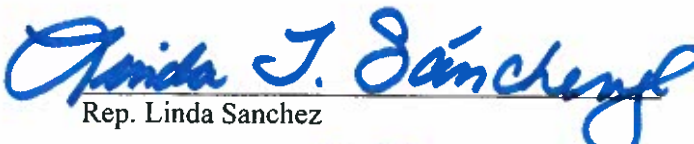
  
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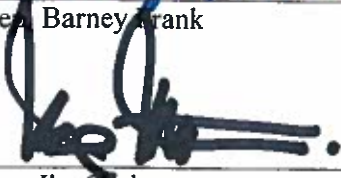
  
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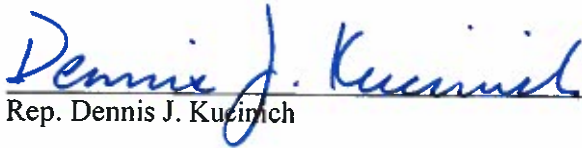
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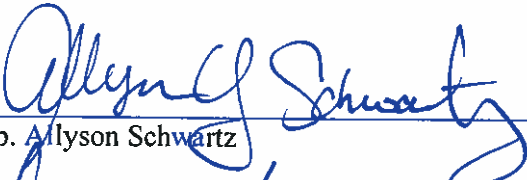
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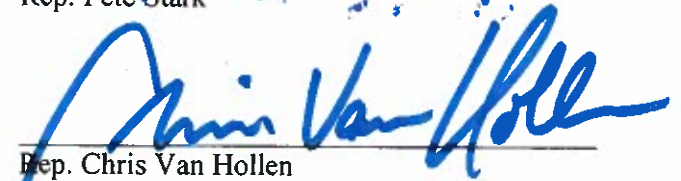
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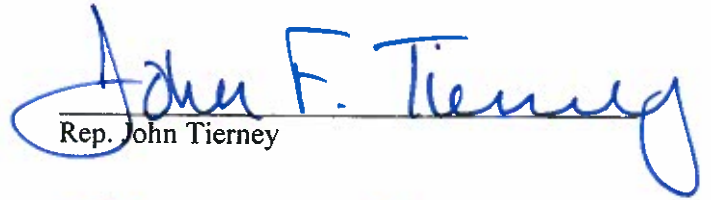
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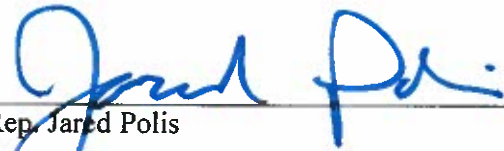
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Rep. John Tierney



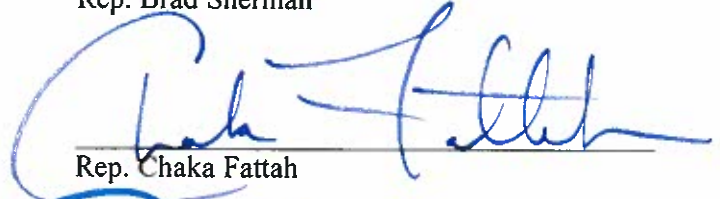
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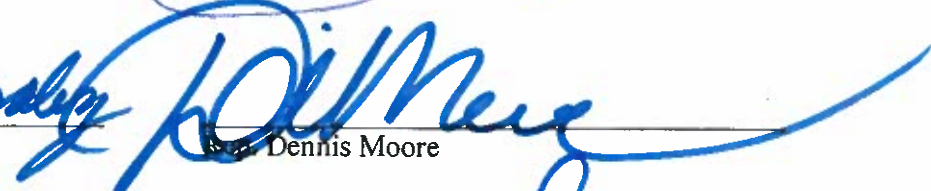
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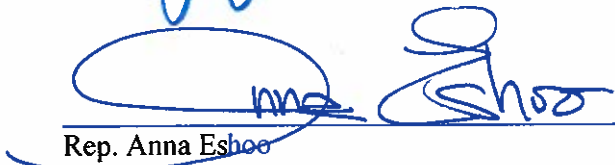
  
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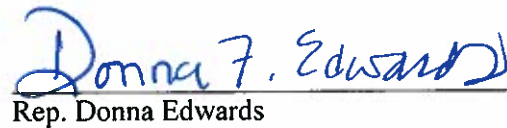
  
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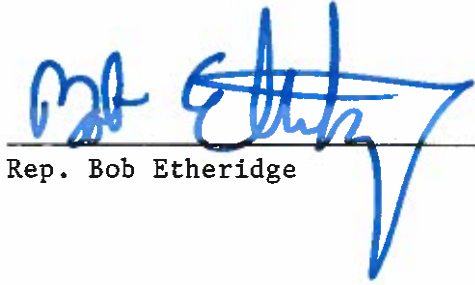
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