

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, Room S-146A  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, and Education, and  
Related Agencies  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 136  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, and Education, and  
Related Agencies  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 156  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Blunt:

As you and your colleagues begin to work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bills, we respectfully request that you maintain a strong commitment to funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill. For the last several years, NIH has been able to advance biomedical innovation and research because of sustained investments. The unprecedented advances in biomedical science in response to the COVID-19 pandemic would not have been possible without the groundwork laid over many years of investment in basic research. We commend the Appropriators for continuing to recognize the critical role support the NIH plays in spurring discoveries that will save and improve lives, and lay the foundation for new treatments and therapies that may help the United States address our most challenging public health needs. As researchers around the country confront the impact of the pandemic, including on their work, it is essential to continue this federal support for the benefit of the American people and the importance of ensuring that our Nation remains at the forefront of medical research.

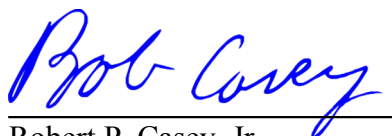
The NIH is our country's premier institution for biomedical innovation, supporting research in all fifty states. It offers our best hope for treating or curing debilitating diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes and so many other illnesses that American families battle every day. It is through NIH-supported innovative medical research that we will learn more about emerging conditions resulting from the pandemic, and conduct early stage research to rapidly identify solutions to this and future public health challenges. Demographic changes and the escalating expenses associated with chronic medical conditions cost the federal government and private sector hundreds of billions of dollars each year, but NIH research has laid the groundwork to help curb those trends.

Our investment in the NIH has supported biomedical research in times of triumph, such as when

NIH-led researchers decoded the human genome, and in times of trial, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. The results of this research contribute to improved health outcomes and economic growth. NIH grants fund basic, clinical and translational research that turns bench-side findings into bedside interventions for patients. NIH supports the work of over 300,000 individuals focused on cutting-edge biomedical research at 2,500 institutions across the country. Unfortunately, America has struggled to maintain its position as the world leader in research and development, and researchers have similarly struggled to secure funding. As NIH grants become more competitive, researchers can easily spend half their careers working before receiving a grant. Secure NIH funding allows scientists to do what they do best—discover tomorrow's therapies and cures. It also prevents promising, talented young researchers from leaving the field of biomedical research and ensures that seasoned investigators continue to conduct their research in the United States. We hope that a sustained commitment to NIH funding will help reverse these troubling trends.

We all recognize the difficult choices that need to be made with respect to the budget. If we are to continue grappling with emerging threats, as well as improve the health of Americans and the quality of their lives, we must continue to invest in biomedical research that has the potential to save money, improve lives and offer an economic return for our Nation. As your Committee makes funding decisions for FY 2023, we urge you to consider the tremendous benefits of sustained investment in the NIH and ask you to remember our Nation's role as a world leader in biomedical research and the impact this research has on the American people. We also ask that you include the full allocation of funding for the NIH provided by the 21st Century Cures Act. Investing in research today will continue to yield cures and therapies for patients tomorrow.

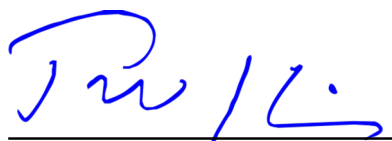
Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



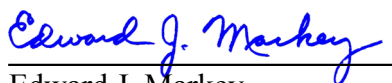
Richard Burr  
United States Senator



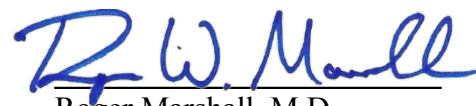
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



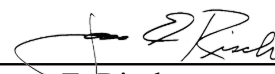
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



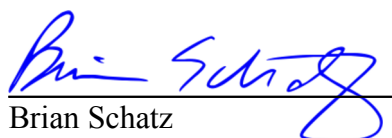
James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator




Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator




Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator




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Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator




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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator




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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



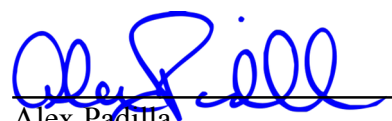
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M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator




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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator




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Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



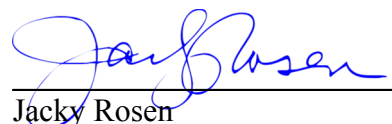
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John Cornyn  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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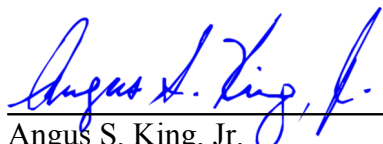
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



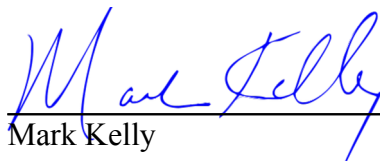
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



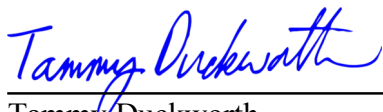
Todd Young  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



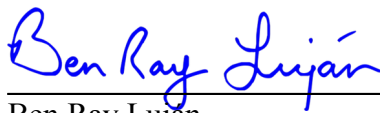
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator




John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator




Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Jon Tester  
United States Senator




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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



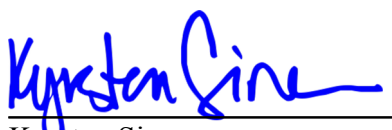
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Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



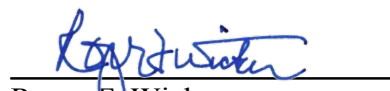
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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



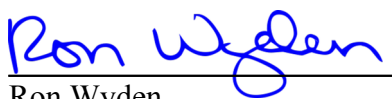
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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator




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Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



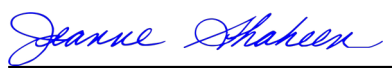
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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator




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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Rick Scott  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator




Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



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Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Steve Daines  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator




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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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John Hoeven  
United States Senator



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Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator