Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the House works to craft an end of year spending bill for fiscal year 2018, we write to express our strong support for increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In any forthcoming appropriations legislation for FY 2018, we urge you to work with your Senate colleagues to ensure NIH receives a funding level of no less than $36 billion, equal to the level approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The amount reflects the rising costs of medical research and would maintain America’s role as a global leader in biomedical research and groundbreaking medical discoveries.

A bipartisan majority of the 115th Congress has already demonstrated its clear support for continuing investments in NIH. This funding helps push the boundaries of scientific knowledge, advance promising research and offer hope to millions of Americans suffering from heartbreaking diseases. Federal funding for this life-saving research is also a key economic driver for our nation, supporting more than 400,000 jobs and generating over $60 billion in new economic activity. It delivers a significant return on our investment today and for generations to come.

Congress has increased NIH funding by $2 billion in each of the last two years and now is not the time to slow down. If we are serious about breaking new ground in our understanding of complex and life-threatening conditions, then it is absolutely essential we increase funding for NIH. Simply put, we cannot hope to accelerate the development of new cures, therapies and vaccines without additional resources for research. Particularly given the significant investments in NIH approved earlier this year by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, we feel strongly that now is the time to recommit to America’s long-term health and prosperity.

While we understand the difficult fiscal challenges you face, we hope you will again see the difference between an investment and a cost. NIH is without question an investment in not just medical innovation and economic growth but our nation’s future. We urge you to prioritize the important role NIH plays by funding the agency at a funding level of no less than $36 billion for FY 2018. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which will make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of Americans.

Sincerely,
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

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

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Suzan Bonamici  
Member of Congress
Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress
Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Tim Walz  
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress
Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress
Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Beto O’Rourke
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress
Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
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Elise Stefanik
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Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress