



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

March 19, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chair Lowey, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Granger:

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research thanks you for your ongoing leadership in maintaining the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a key national priority. As Congress moves forward with the fiscal year (FY) 2020 spending bills, we write to urge you to significantly boost the FY 2020 allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending bill to ensure the subcommittee is able to invest fully in NIH and the entire network of health agencies and programs that work together to improve the health of all Americans.

We are grateful for the recent bipartisan agreements to raise spending caps imposed in the Budget Control Act of 2011, and as a community, we strongly support another bipartisan budget deal to increase the caps for nondefense discretionary spending overall. Within that total, we encourage you to ensure that the allocation for the Labor-HHS Subcommittee appropriately reflects the broad range of national public health priorities under the subcommittee's jurisdiction, including the nation's investment in medical research supported by the NIH.

Over the last four years, Congress has helped the agency regain some of the ground lost after years of effectively flat budgets. This most welcome renewed investment in NIH has advanced discovery toward promising therapies and diagnostics, reenergized existing and aspiring scientists nationwide, and restored hope for patients and their families. To further realize the potential of medical research, we must continue this forward momentum with sustained, robust budget growth. For FY 2020, the Ad Hoc Group recommends at least \$41.6 billion for the NIH.

Providing a significant increase for the Labor-HHS allocation will help facilitate such an investment in FY 2020 and position both NIH and the Department of Health and Human Services broadly to deliver on the promise of medical research. We look forward to working with you on our mutual goal of supporting medical research as a part of the broader public health continuum to improve the health of all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tannaz Rasouli'.

Tannaz Rasouli
Executive Director