

November 8, 2005

The Honorable Ralph Regula  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
United State House of Representative  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you work to finalize the conference agreement on the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriation (H.R. 3010), the undersigned organizations, which represent patients, scientists, healthcare providers, and industry, strongly urge you to support the Senate-passed recommendation of \$29.4 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

For nearly 60 years, this nation's investment in medical research through the NIH has enabled great progress in saving lives, reducing human suffering and generating immeasurable economic dividends. But continued medical progress will be jeopardized unless Congress continues to support the quest for more effective treatments, diagnostics and preventive measures for diseases that collectively affect millions of Americans. As the Senate Appropriations Committee noted in its report on the FY 2006 funding bill:

The Nation's investment in NIH has yielded a myriad of scientific achievements that are helping to save lives, prevent illness and improve the quality of life. From drugs to control high blood pressure, lower cholesterol and prevent blood clots to the development of a vaccine that eliminates the leading cause of mental retardation in infants, NIH has played a significant role. But that role has broadened and taken on even greater immediacy, as NIH has taken the lead in protecting our Nation against bioterrorism and other public health emergencies including anthrax, plague, tularemia and West Nile virus. With these and other threats looming, now is not the time for retrenchment; rather, it is the time to exploit fully any opportunity that could lead to improved health.  
[Senate report 109-103, page 88]

We urge you to support \$29.4 billion for NIH in the FY 2006 Labor-HHS-Education conference bill. Now is not the time to weaken this nation's commitment to the medical research that provides hope for the improved health and well-being of all Americans.

Sincerely,

AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC)  
Academic Health Centers' Clinical Research Forum  
Academy of Radiology Research  
Acid Maltase Deficiency Association (AMDA)  
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Allegheny-Singer Research Institute  
Allergan, Inc.  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alpha-1 Association  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
Alstrom Syndrome International  
Alzheimer's Association  
Ambulatory Pediatric Association  
AMD Alliance International  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Optometry  
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Academy of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Immunologists  
American Association Neurological Surgeons  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association for Thoracic Surgery  
American Association of University Professors  
American Brain Coalition  
American Cancer Society  
American Chemical Society  
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI)  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology  
American College of Medical Genetics  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Rheumatology

American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Federation for Medical Research  
American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Heart Association  
American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA)  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pain Foundation  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Psychological Society  
American Sleep Apnea Association  
American Sociological Association  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB)  
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research  
American Society for Cell Biology  
American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Thoracic Society  
Americans for Medical Progress  
America's Blood Centers  
Angioma Alliance  
Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation  
Apoyo al Niño Down (ANDO)  
ARPKD/CHF Alliance  
Arthritis Foundation  
Associated Medical Schools of New York  
Association for Clinical Research Training  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries

Association of Academic Psychiatrists  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
Association of American Universities (AAU)  
Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairpersons  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry  
Association of Medical School Microbiology and Immunology Chairs  
Association of Medical School Neuroscience Department Chairs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs (AMSPDC)  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Professors of Human/ Medical Genetics  
Association of Professors of Medicine  
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers (APAHC)  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of Subspecialty Professors  
Association of University Anesthesiologists  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Association of University Professors of Neurology (AUPN)  
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America  
Autism Tissue Program  
BCCNS Life Support Network  
Boston University School of Medicine  
Boys Town National Research Hospital  
Brown Medical School  
CADASIL Together We Have Hope  
California Institute of Technology  
Cardio-Facio-Cutaneous International  
Caring Ambassadors  
Case School of Medicine  
Cedars-Sinai Health System  
Celiac Sprue Association  
Center for the Advancement of Health  
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science  
Child Neurology Society  
Child & Adolescent Bipolar Foundation  
Children's Hospital Boston  
Christopher Reeve Foundation  
Citizens for Quality Sickle Cell Care, Inc  
Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE)  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Coalition of EPSCoR/IDeA States

Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue  
Columbia University  
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals  
Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Research, Education and Support (CARES  
Foundation)  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation, Inc.  
Cornell University  
Council on Governmental Relations  
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America  
Curtis Laxa Internationale  
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation  
Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome Association  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Duke University Medical Center  
Duke University School of Medicine  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
EDS Today  
The Endocrine Society  
Epilepsy Foundation  
ESA, Inc.  
Esophageal Cancer Awareness Assn., Inc.  
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE)  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)  
FIGHT FOR SIGHT  
FOD Family Support Group  
Fox Chase Cancer Center  
The Foundation Fighting Blindness  
Genentech, Inc.  
General Clinical Research Centers Program Directors Association  
Genetic Alliance  
Genetic Alliance BioBank  
Genetics Society of America  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gerontological Society of America  
Gluten Intolerance Group of North America  
Heart Rhythm Society  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia Foundation International  
Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network Inc.  
Hunter's Hope Foundation

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research  
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders  
Isodicentric 15 Exchange, Advocacy & Support (IDEAS)  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Johns Hopkins Institutions  
Johns Hopkins Medicine  
Judah International Christian Center, Inc.  
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International  
Lifespan Hospital System  
Lupus Research Institute National Coalition  
Lymphatic Research Foundation  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
March of Dimes  
Maricopa Medical Foundation  
Mayo Clinic  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Medical Library Association  
Meharry Medical College  
Meridian Health  
MLD Foundation  
Michigan State University  
Molecular Medicine Foundation  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Association for Biomedical Research  
National Association for Continence (NAFC)  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)  
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC)  
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs  
National Coalition for Heart and Stroke Research  
National Coalition for Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases  
National Eczema Association for Science and Education  
National Kidney Foundation  
National MPS Society  
National Marfan Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)  
National Organization of Vascular Anomalies  
National Primate Research Centers  
National Psoriasis Foundation

National Sleep Foundation  
National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC)  
National Stroke Association  
National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association, Inc. (NTSAD)  
National Women's Health Network  
NephCure Foundation  
Neurofibromatosis, Inc.  
Neuropathy Association  
Neuropathy Research Foundation  
New York Medical College  
New York University School of Medicine  
NHLBI Constituency Group  
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine  
Northern Nevada Genetic Counseling  
Northwestern University  
Ohio State University  
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation  
Paget Foundation for Paget's Disease of Bone and Related Disorders  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
Parkinson's Action Network  
Penn State University College of Medicine  
Population Association of America  
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (USA)  
Preeclampsia Foundation  
Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia Foundation (PCD)  
Project DOCC - Delivery of Chronic Care  
The Protein Society  
Pull-thru Network, Inc.  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
PXE International  
Research!America  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
Rett Syndrome Research Foundation  
Robert Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Emory University  
Rutgers University  
SADS Foundation  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine  
Society for Investigative Dermatology  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Pediatric Research

Society for Research in Child Development  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of University Surgeons  
Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education  
South Alabama Medical Science Foundation  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Stony Brook University Hospital  
Sturge-Weber Foundation  
Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) Foundation  
SUNY Downstate Medical Center  
SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse  
TeenScreen  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance  
Tulane University  
UCLA  
UNC at Charlotte  
UNC at Chapel Hill  
UNC at Greensboro  
UNC at Wilmington  
United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation  
University of Alabama School of Medicine  
University of Arizona  
University of California  
University of Chicago  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Florida Health Science Center  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois Chicago College of Medicine  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland  
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri  
University of Nebraska  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry  
University of Southern California  
University of Texas Medical, Galveston  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Wake Forest University Health Sciences  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
West Virginia University School of Medicine  
Wright State University  
XLH Network, Inc.  
Yale University