

Leslie Ritter

From: Leslie Ritter
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 1:01 PM
To: Leslie Ritter
Subject: FW: NIH Dear Colleague

Please join us in sending a letter to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations (LHHS) Subcommittee in support of programmatic funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), by **COB March 22**.

To join the letter, please use [this form](#). Please contact Brandon Mendoza (Rep. Susan Davis) at brandon.mendoza@mail.house.gov with any further questions.

Sincerely,
Susan A. Davis
André Carson

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Peter T. King

Support the NIH - FY 2020 Appropriations Request

Sending Office: Honorable Susan A. Davis
Sent By: Brandon.Mendoza@mail.house.gov

Support the NIH - FY 2020 Appropriations Request

Dear Chairs Lowey and DeLauro and Ranking Members Granger and Cole:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plays in better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the program level for the agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 should be at least \$41.6 billion, \$2.5 billion above the final FY19 funding level, to reflect the rising costs of biomedical research. At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs as well as international leadership in biomedical research.

This level of funding would maintain the steady, sustained increases for the NIH each year, account for biomedical inflation, and ensure that the Innovation Accounts provided through the 21st Century Cures Act would supplement the agency's base budget through dedicated funding to specific programs, as intended. Despite recent progress, the NIH still has not fully recovered from over a decade of underinvestment. The wide-ranging impact of this lag led to dramatically lower grant application success rates and less money available for new researchers seeking their first grant. If we do not continue the recent momentum of adequate budget growth, we

risk forcing students who are receiving a world-class education at American universities to graduate and seek research positions in China and other nations that are prioritizing investment in biomedical research.

The critical investments we make in biomedical research are our nation's best hope in finding cures and treatments for diseases that affect millions of Americans. The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone but has led to major achievements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as well as historically prevalent diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer and Parkinson's. In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 400,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding echoes far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state across America.

In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs. We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least \$41.6 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2020. Please contact Brandon Mendoza (Rep. Susan Davis) with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Davis

David B. McKinley, P.E.

André Carson

Peter T. King

Brandon Mendoza

Senior Legislative Assistant

Congresswoman Susan A. Davis (CA-53)

Office: [\(202\) 225-2040](tel:2022252040)

From: Leslie Ritter <leslie.ritter@nmss.org>

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 4:59 PM

To: "Mendoza, Brandon" <Brandon.Mendoza@mail.house.gov>

Subject: NIH Dear Colleague

Hi Brandon,

Do you have a copy of the NIH dear colleague? Our activists are following up with their Members from our Hill day last week and many of them would like a copy to include in their follow up.

Thanks,
Leslie

Leslie Ritter, MA

Senior Director, Federal Government Relations

National MS Society

1100 New York Ave. NW, Suite 440-E
Washington, DC 20005
Direct Phone: (202) 408-0681
Email: leslie.ritter@nmss.org
Follow us on Twitter: [@MSactivist](https://twitter.com/MSactivist)

