March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

As Members of Congress who value the critical role played by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) 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 our international leadership in biomedical research.

Providing this amount to the NIH 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, our nation's investment in 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 ramping up investment in biomedical research.

The critical investments we make in biomedical research are our nation's best hope in finding cures and treatments of 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 ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state in 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 Charlie Arnowitz (Rep. Carson) with any further questions.

Sincerely,
Sincerely,

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

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

Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Peter T. King
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Katie Hill
Member of Congress
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, DMV  
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

Mike Levin  
Member of Congress

Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

Tim Burchett  
David Scott  
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress
Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
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Mark Takano  
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Darren Soto  
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Steve Stivers  
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Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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Andy Levin  
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Vern Buchanan  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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Rash Kinzinger  
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Debbie Dingell  
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Tom O'Halleran  
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Mike Doyle  
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Vicky Hartzler  
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Ted Deutch
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Wm. Lacy Clay
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Dean Phillips  
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Tulsi Gabbard  
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Barbara Lee  
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Bobby J. Rush  
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Ben McAdams  
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Albio Sires  
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Denny Heck  
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Carolyn B. Maloney  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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Michael R. Turner  
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Jackie Speier
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Alan Lowenthal
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Juan Vargas
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Paul D. Tonko
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Rick Larsen
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Jimmy Panetta
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Darin LaHood
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Madeleine Dean
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William R. Keating
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Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

James. R. Langevin
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Member of Congress

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Rob Woodall
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Carol D. Miller
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Brad Sherman
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Diana DeGette
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Tom Malinowski
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John Joyce, M.D.
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Bryan Steil
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Rick W. Allen
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Lucy McBath
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Eliot L. Engel
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Keith Butterfield
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress