

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Rogers and Ranking Members Cochran and Dicks:

The undersigned organizations, which represent research universities and institutions, medical schools and teaching hospitals, scientists, patients, and other supporters of medical research, strongly oppose the statutory mandates in H.R. 1 that dictate the number and size of grant awards to be funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We have grave concerns about the restrictions H.R. 1 places on NIH's ability to distribute funding effectively based on the best science and public health. In addition, we believe these mandates will exacerbate the negative consequences of the \$1.6 billion funding cut included in H.R. 1. That cut will result in devastating consequences for the millions of patients awaiting the treatment or cure that only federally supported medical research can provide, as well as to the progress of scientists across the nation who compete for NIH funds.

The extraordinary improvements in health that have resulted from NIH-funded research are a credit to the efficient and competitive award system that is the envy of the world. NIH Institutes and Centers have the flexibility to make the type and size of awards that are best suited to meeting our current health challenges and scientific opportunities, based on the merit of the science, input from the research community, and health needs of the nation. This allows NIH to respond quickly to emerging infectious diseases, such as SARS or H1N1 influenza, to seek out the best and the brightest individual investigators to foster breakthrough discoveries, and to invest wisely and thoughtfully in the most promising areas of cutting-edge science. If NIH is to continue to fund the highest quality research and the next generation of talented researchers in the most effective manner possible, Congress should not tie the hands of the agency by setting arbitrary boundaries on the number and size of awards.

NIH plays an enormous role in our nation's health and economic security, forms the cornerstone of our biodefense, and is the foundation of our global dominance in biomedical innovation. Crippling this critical agency by cutting its funding while at the same time reducing its flexibility with well-intended but ill-conceived mandates will ultimately harm the search for cures and treatments intended to benefit the American people. As you complete the appropriations process for fiscal year 2011, we urge you to neither cut NIH funding nor prevent NIH from using its resources efficiently.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Policy Project
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
Alpha-1 Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Radiology (ACR)
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Pediatric Society
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Microbiology (ASM)
American Society of Hematology
American Statistical Association
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Anschutz Medical Campus, University of Colorado
Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Vision & Ophthalmology (ARVO)
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention
Biophysical Society
Brown University
Cedars-Sinai Health System
City of Hope

Cleveland Clinic
Coalition for Health Services Research
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Columbia University
Conference of Boston teaching Hospitals
Cornell University
Council on Governmental Relations (COGR)
Creighton University
Creighton University School of Medicine
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Duke University School of Medicine
Georgia Health Sciences University
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA)
Indiana University
Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
International Rectal Microbicide Advocates (IRMA)
Johns Hopkins University
Life Technologies
Loyola University Medical Center
Lung Cancer Circle of Hope
Lupus Research Institute
Medical College of Wisconsin
Michigan State University
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
National Alliance for Eye and Vision (NAEVR)
National Coalition for Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
New York University
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Oregon Health & Science University
Oregon State University
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Penn Medicine
Penn State College of Medicine

Princeton University
Research!America
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Saint Louis University
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Hospital Medicine
South Dakota State University
Stanford University
Stony Brook University, State University of New York
Texas Tech University
The AIDS Institute
The American Brain Coalition
The Endocrine Society
The Ohio State University
The Paget Foundation
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
The University of Vermont
Treatment Action Group
Tulane University
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
University of California System:
University of California Berkeley
University of California Davis
University of California Irvine
University of California Los Angeles
University of California Merced
University of California Riverside
University of California San Diego
University of California San Francisco
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California Santa Cruz
University of Cincinnati
University of the District of Columbia
University of Houston System

University of Idaho
University of Illinois
University of Kansas
University of Kansas Medical Center
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland, Baltimore
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of South Alabama College of Medicine
University of South Florida Health College of Medicine
University of Southern California
University of Texas at San Antonio
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler
University of Texas Medical Branch
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
West Virginia University
ZERO – The Project to End Prostate Cancer