

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chair
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Ranking Member Murray:

The undersigned organizations are part of the Friends of NIDDK, a coalition of professional societies and patient advocacy groups with a vested interest in promoting and sustaining the vital research activities of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). **The Friends of NIDDK support a funding level of \$2.066 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 for the Institute.** This funding level is an increase of approximately 8% over FY 2015 and a 6.2% increase over the President's FY 2016 budget request.

The Friends of NIDDK was established in 2013 with the vision of uniting organizations to speak with one voice about the important research being conducted by the Institute and to ensure that these critical dollars continue to increase in future years. The Friends of NIDDK work to educate Members of Congress about the scientific advances made through the Institute's ongoing research and the critical importance of increased federal funding for future scientific initiatives. In just the short time since its inception, over 40 national and local organizations have joined the Friends of NIDDK to rally their support of the Institute's activities.

As you know, NIDDK is the fifth largest institute at the National Institutes of Health, and conducts and supports medical research and research training on diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic diseases; digestive diseases, nutritional disorders, and obesity; and kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases. Collectively these are some of the most common, yet costly, diseases impacting Americans.

For example, diabetes affects an estimated 29.1 million people in the U.S. As described in the "National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2014" the estimated price tag for this disease in 2012 was \$245 billion. About 26 million American adults have chronic kidney disease (CKD) and millions of others are at increased risk. Urologic diseases affect people of all ages, result in significant

health care expenditures, and may lead to substantial disability and impaired quality of life. These diseases represent only a portion of the NIDDK research portfolio, but nonetheless underscore the need for continued investment. The researchers at NIDDK are collaborating and using innovative technology to discover cross-cutting solutions that will ultimately reduce health care costs and improve quality of life for millions of Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you and are committed to and amplifying efforts to promote the Institute's numerous benefits to policymakers and other key stakeholders. Should you have any questions or require additional resources regarding NIDDK activities, please contact the Friends of NIDDK's Washington representative, Jim Twaddell, at Jim.Twaddell@dbr.com or (202) 230-5130.

Sincerely,

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE)
American Association of Kidney Patients
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Diabetes Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Liver Foundation
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society of Nephrology
American Society for Nutrition
American Urological Association
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Digestive Disease National Coalition
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
JDRF
National Kidney Foundation
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Foundation
The Simon Foundation