

May 16, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Rehberg and Ranking Members Shelby and DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations and institutions, representing the nation's research institutions, researchers, physician-scientists, and patients, thank you and your subcommittees for your continued support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which has resulted in immense benefits for the health of the American people. As you begin consideration of the Fiscal Year 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we bring to your attention an issue of particular importance. Specifically, we urge you to restore the salary limit imposed on extramural NIH researchers to Level I of the Executive pay scale.

Division F, Section 203 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74) reduced the salary limit to Executive Level II and extended it to all HHS funding agencies. This change represents a cut of \$20,000 (10 percent), and comes at a time when research institutions' discretionary funds from clinical revenues and other sources are increasingly constrained and less available to invest in research. As institutions and departments divert funds to compensate for the reduction in the salary limit, they will have less funding for critical activities such as providing bridge funding to investigators who may be between grants, and to provide seed grants and start-up packages for young investigators.

A high priority for the nation's medical research effort, affirmed by the Congress, is strengthening clinical and translational research. The dynamic health needs of the nation call for ensuring the recruitment and retention of the nation's most talented and productive group of investigators including Ph.D. trained scientists and physician scientists. The extramural salary limit particularly disadvantages the most productive investigators, who likely dedicate the majority of their time in research and who have a sustained track record in breakthrough discoveries, and will have a chilling effect on gifted new investigators. Moreover, it disproportionately affects physician investigators and serves as a deterrent to their recruitment

into research careers at a time when the United States is committed to improving the health of the nation and remaining globally competitive in research and technology. Since the Federal government imposed the salary cap on extramural researchers in 1990, medical schools and teaching hospitals have been increasingly forced to bear more of the costs of physician-scientists' and other investigators' salaries.

It is essential to our nation's long-term health and standing in the global environment that we not disincentivize research careers and that we adopt policies to ensure that America retains the most talented, productive, and diverse group of biomedical and behavioral researchers. Medical research continues to produce major breakthroughs in the search for cures and treatments to a wide array of diseases and disorders. This is not the time to step back.

Restoring the extramural salary limit to Executive Level I will allow our institutions to continue to attract and retain the best investigators in our research programs. We urge you to restore the salary limit to Executive Level I when you consider the FY 2013 Labor-HHS appropriation.

Sincerely,

Academy of Radiology Research  
AIDS Action Baltimore  
AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
The American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Statistical Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)  
Association for Clinical Research Training  
Association for Patient-Oriented Research  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors

The Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI)  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Beaumont Health System  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA  
Boonshoft School of Medicine  
Boston University School of Medicine  
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA  
Brown University  
CADASIL Together We Hope Nonprofits  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Charles R. Drew University  
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue  
Columbia University  
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University  
Council on Governmental Relations  
Cornell University  
Creighton University  
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Duke University School of Medicine  
Eastern Virginia Medical School  
Emory University  
Genetic Alliance  
Hereditary Leiomyoma and Renal Cell Cancer Family Alliance (HLRCCFA)  
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute  
Indiana University  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Essential Tremor Foundation  
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders  
International WAGR Syndrome Association  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kids With Heart National Association for Children's Heart Disorders, Inc  
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital  
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine  
The Lupus Research Institute  
Marshall University  
Maryland Hepatitis Coalition  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Mayo Clinic  
Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Health Sciences University  
Medical Library Association

Medical University of South Carolina  
Meharry Medical College  
Michigan State University  
MLD Foundation  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR)  
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)  
National Marfan Foundation  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
NYU Langone Medical Center  
Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine  
Ochsner Health System  
The Ohio State University  
Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Partners HealthCare  
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania  
Penn State College of Medicine  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
PXE International  
RASopathies Network USA  
Research!America  
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science  
Rush University  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, Connecticut  
Saint Louis University  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society for Clinical and Translational Science  
Society for Pediatric Research  
The Society of Behavioral Medicine  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Stony Brook University  
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine  
Temple University School of Medicine  
Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine  
Tufts University School of Medicine  
Tulane University  
Tuskegee University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health  
UC Berkeley  
UC Davis  
UC Irvine  
UC Los Angeles  
UC Merced

UC Riverside  
UC San Diego  
UC San Francisco  
UC Santa Barbara  
UC Santa Cruz  
Universidad Central del Caribe  
University at Buffalo  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
University of California System  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
University of Connecticut School of Medicine  
University of Illinois  
University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita  
University of Louisville  
University of Maryland School of Medicine  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
The University of Michigan Medical School  
University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine  
University of Missouri School of Medicine  
University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rochester  
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston  
University of Texas System  
University of Utah Health Sciences  
University of Vermont College of Medicine  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
US Hereditary Angioedema Association  
Vanderbilt University  
VHL Family Alliance  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Yale School of Medicine