

June 19, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member DeGette:

The 75 research, life sciences industry, and patient advocacy organizations listed below join together in offering our strong support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding provisions included in the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6).

The work of our research institutions and members, as well as progress in the fight against the diseases we care greatly about, depends on steady, robust funding from NIH. As you well know, as a result of flat funding, NIH's purchasing power has eroded over the past decade resulting in only one-in-seven grants being funded and countless lost opportunities for discovery and cures. H.R. 6 stands to help reverse this trend by increasing NIH's annual authorization by approximately \$1.5 billion for each of three years and creating a new mandatory Innovation Fund of \$2 billion per year to boost biomedical research above discretionary levels for the next five years. As long as the Innovation Fund supplements and does not replace regular NIH appropriations, this would be a tremendous step in the right direction.

The scientific breakthroughs that take place across this nation with funding from NIH have raised life expectancy and improved the quality of life for countless Americans. And they amount to an economic engine that sustains American international competitiveness. The blueprint for funding included in this bill has the potential to provide NIH with the resources needed to improve how we prevent and treat many of society's most vexing diseases, including the thousands for which we currently do not have effective treatments.

We commend your leadership in developing truly bipartisan legislation to address NIH funding and encourage all House members to co-sponsor this important bill, which will help ensure the United States remains the world's medical innovation leader.

Sincerely,

Adult Congenital Heart Association
Alliance for Aging Research
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Society of Hematology American Society of Nephrology
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
BD
Biocom
BioNJ
BJC HealthCare
Boston University
California Life Sciences Association
Californians for Cures
Corning Incorporated
CreakyJoints
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
FasterCures
Florida International University
Florida State University
Friends of Patients at the NIH
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Harvard University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mended Hearts
Miami University (Oxford, Ohio)
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pediatric Congenital Heart Association
Pediatric Stroke Network
Pennsylvania Bio
Portland State University
Research!America
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
SADS Foundation
Shire
Stanford University
Syracuse University
The New England Council
The State University of New York
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Maine
United for Medical Research
University of Missouri System
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Florida
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University