

United for Medical Research



November 12, 2014

Congressman Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

As you negotiate a final spending bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, United for Medical Research (UMR), a coalition of leading research institutions, patient and health advocates and private industry, asks that you support the provisions related to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) contained in the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies bill, including at least \$30.45 billion in funding.

NIH-funded medical research yields lifesaving benefits and offers hope to millions suffering from disease. NIH funding also fuels the U.S. economy, annually supporting more than 405,000 jobs and generating more than \$58 billion in nationwide economic output. These critical funds lay the groundwork for private sector medical innovation, which is crucial to our prosperity and America's continued leadership in bioscience. Unfortunately, the combination of a decade of flat funding followed by a \$1.6 billion sequestration cut and other countries substantially increasing their investments in biomedical research is creating an innovation deficit. The provisions contained in the Senate bill ensure that previous sequestration cuts are restored and take a step in the right direction to reestablish U.S. leadership in biomedical research.

On behalf of millions of patients, scientific researchers, and industry leaders, UMR urges negotiators to adopt the Senate provisions for NIH to halt the negative trajectory of recent funding patterns and continue the quest for new lifesaving treatments and cures. We look forward to working with you to help close the innovation deficit and reinvest our investment in the life sciences.

Sincerely,

United for Medical Research

CC: Congressman Jack Kingston, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro

CC: Senator Tom Harkin, Senator Jerry Moran

United for Medical Research represents leading research institutions, patient and health advocates and private industry, joined together to seek steady increases in federal funding for the National Institutes of Health. The coalition consists of the following members:

American Association for Cancer Research, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Association of American Universities, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, BD, Biotechnology Industry Organization, Boston University, Corning, FasterCures, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Melanoma Research Alliance, Northwestern University, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, PhRMA, Research!America, Stanford University, The Endocrine Society, Thermo Fisher Scientific, University of Pennsylvania, University of Southern California, Vanderbilt University, Washington University in St. Louis