



April 2, 2020

Senator Roy Blunt
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcommittee
United States Senate

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives

Senator Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcmte
United States Senate

Representative Tom Cole
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcmte
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairs Blunt and DeLauro and Ranking Members Murray and Cole:

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), which represents leading scientific research institutions and industries, and health and patient advocates, we want to thank you for your steadfast leadership in supporting the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in annual appropriations, but also within the recent emergency enacted bills responding to the coronavirus crisis.

As you and your Labor-HHS subcommittees resume the regular appropriations process, we urge you to include an increase of \$3 billion in NIH funding for fiscal year 2021. As this pandemic demonstrates, this is no time to stall the momentum for medical research you have achieved over the past five years.

Thanks to your ongoing commitment and Congress’s bipartisan support of sustainable funding for NIH, the agency was well positioned to take on the massive reach and scale of the coronavirus pandemic. As you are acutely aware, it is the research and innovation of previous years that prepare us for today, and it’s today’s research that prepares us for tomorrow’s biggest public health challenges. Your leadership and your support of NIH couldn’t have come at a more critical time.

UMR members are proud to partner with NIH on life-saving treatments and cures, and know how integral it is to the health of all Americans. In fact, UMR members are currently engaged in the fight against the coronavirus, and have been supporting many advancements including ultra-rapid antibody discovery technologies, protein mapping modifications, and critical diagnostic kits. These typify innovations commonly driven by NIH investment.

Not only does NIH continue to make great progress toward improving the health of all Americans, it also continues to be a powerhouse for our economy. In fiscal year 2019, NIH research funding directly and indirectly supported 476,000 jobs nationwide. When cycled through the economy, the income generated by these jobs, as well as through the purchase of research-related equipment, services and materials, produced \$81 billion in new economic activity.

UMR Members

- AdvaMed
- Alzheimer’s Association
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
- American Heart Association
- Association of American Universities
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
- BD
- Biotechnology Innovation Organization
- Boston University
- Corning
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Johnson & Johnson
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- MilliporeSigma
- Northwestern University
- PhRMA
- Research!America
- Stanford University
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- University of Pennsylvania
- Vanderbilt University
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Washington University in St. Louis

As our proven NIH leaders help direct the fight against the coronavirus, we are reminded that there is not a more powerful or important investment than one that protects the nation's health and provides hope to patients and families.

Again, thank you for your unwavering support of NIH. UMR is eager to help your efforts toward fiscal year 2021 funding in any way.

Sincerely,

Chol Pak
Director, Federal Government Relations, Thermo Fisher Scientific
President, United for Medical Research

Caroline Powers
Director, Federal Relations, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Secretary, United for Medical Research

Lizbet Boroughs
Associate Vice President for Federal Relations, Association of American Universities
Treasurer, United for Medical Research

Alex Currie
Senior Director of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Board Member, United for Medical Research

Christopher Austin
Associate Director, Federal Affairs, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine
Board Member, United for Medical Research