



May 18, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcmte
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcmte
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

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

In a year that health care challenges and triumphs continue to surround the COVID-19 pandemic, United for Medical Research (UMR) urges you to keep the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on a strong and sustainable path by providing an increase of at least \$3.2 billion for the base budget in the fiscal year 2022 appropriations.

UMR, which represents leading scientific research institutions, industries and patient advocates, is deeply appreciative of your longstanding support for NIH and its mission to save lives. Without your steadfast support of the world’s premier biomedical research agency, the United States would not have been prepared to respond as quickly as it did to provide COVID-19 treatments and vaccines to America and to the world.

To combat the next pandemic, and to continue our fight against cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer’s and many other devastating diseases, NIH must have the resources to facilitate the next generation of innovation. That is why the fiscal year 2022 Labor-HHS appropriations for NIH is so critical to our country.

Not only does NIH research save lives, improve health and offer hope to people affected by disease, but it’s also a major catalyst for local economies. According to a recently released report by UMR, research funding supported 536,338 jobs and drove \$91.35 billion in economic activity in fiscal year 2020. More than 80 percent of NIH’s annual budget is awarded in grants that go to every state to support high quality jobs.

UMR also looks forward to learning more about President Biden’s new proposal to create the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Health (ARPA-H) within NIH. We are very encouraged by this level of commitment to biomedical research and will eagerly work with Congress in maintaining this momentum for NIH.

UMR Members

- AdvaMed
- Alzheimer’s Association
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- 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
- Northwestern University
- PhRMA
- Stanford University
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- University of Pennsylvania
- Vanderbilt University
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- Washington University in St. Louis

Thank you for your leadership and for making a strong NIH a bipartisan, national priority. By providing NIH with at least a \$3.2 billion funding increase for its base budget next fiscal year, Congress will help ensure NIH's continued success and its ability to safeguard the country from another health emergency. There is no investment more powerful or important than one that protects the nation's health and provides hope to patients and families.

Sincerely,

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

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

Caitlin M. Leach
Director of Federal Relations, Northwestern University
Secretary, United for Medical Research

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

Rachel Conant
Vice President, Federal Affairs, Alzheimer's Association
Board Member, United for Medical Research

Cc: The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations