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Ad Hoc Group Statement on NIH Funding in the Draft House Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill for FY 2025

June 27, 2024 – The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement regarding funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the draft fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations bill approved today by the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

"The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research appreciates, particularly in the context of the current constrained fiscal environment and impractical discretionary spending cap, the Committee's efforts to largely preserve funding for medical research, one of our nation's greatest assets in combatting debilitating health challenges that affect patients, families, and communities everywhere. If we seek to continue to make progress toward new cures, treatments, diagnostics, and preventive interventions for patients; drive economic growth and stability in communities nationwide; bolster scientific and national security; and strengthen our economic competitiveness with global adversaries that recognize the returns that medical research yields, we must resume the trajectory of robust above-inflation increases for NIH. For these reasons, nearly 400 members of the medical research stakeholder community joined in March to urge lawmakers to continue their bipartisan commitment to medical research and ensure at least \$51.3 billion for the NIH's base program level. That imperative remains just as urgent today.

Additionally, we note the inclusion in the spending bill of major structural and policy changes to the agency. While commenting on the specifics of these proposals is beyond the scope of the Ad Hoc Group, many of our organizations are in the process of responding to Congressional requests for stakeholder feedback on various proposals related to NIH. At minimum, it would be premature to integrate such changes in the spending bill without the benefit of robust stakeholder input. Even more concerning, it would be disruptive to the scientific enterprise to implement such dramatic changes so abruptly without first soliciting and integrating the scientific expertise that could inform such an exercise.

As the process moves forward, we urge the Committee to reconsider its approach; to, similarly, reject provisions that will arbitrarily impede medical research; and, instead, to advance a bipartisan spending bill that invests robustly in NIH in FY 2025."

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research is a coalition of nearly 400 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry. The Ad Hoc Group has one mission: to enhance the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research by increasing the funding for the National Institutes of Health.
