Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Chairwoman Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations H-307, the Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Tom Cole Ranking Member Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role the National Institutes of Health (NIH) plays in better health outcomes, global competitiveness, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the program level for the agency's base in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 should be at least \$49 billion and that any funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health should supplement, not supplant, this necessary growth in the NIH base budget.

From longstanding challenges like cancer, Alzheimer's, and heart disease, to emerging threats like the long-term health impacts of COVID-19 infections, the research that NIH supports in labs nationwide has a profound impact on patients, families, and communities. In a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity across all disease areas, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs, prepare for future pandemics, and sustain our international leadership in biomedical research.

In the last few years, medical research has led to new therapies that are transforming patient care for diseases such as sickle cell disease, cystic fibrosis, and through the use of CAR-T cells, certain types of cancer. NIH-funded researchers, working in concert with the private sector, were also able to transform this existing infrastructure into novel diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines to combat COVID-19. Providing \$49 billion for the NIH would build on the traditional bipartisan commitment to NIH-supported research that has made such accomplishments possible. We are at the tip of the iceberg of new life-saving innovations. Imagine what we can accomplish with more robust investments in medical research, from making strides to combat antimicrobial resistance, to harnessing the power of personalized medicine to treat disease, and more. The critical investments we make in biomedical research are our nation's best hope in finding cures, prevention measures, and treatments for diseases that affect millions of Americans. For these reasons, hundreds of organizations representing patients, scientists, health professionals, educators, institutions, and industry support this funding recommendation.

The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone. Noncommercial basic and clinical research funded by NIH, coupled with private sector innovation, has led to major achievements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as

well as historically prevalent diseases like ALS, substance use disorders, stroke, and Parkinson's. In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 300,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state and many U.S. territories. In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH not only as a research agency improving the health of all Americans, but also as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital leader in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least \$49 billion in funding for the NIH base budget in FY 2023.

Sincerely,

André Carson

André Carson Member of Congress

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David/B. McKinley, P.E. Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick Member of Congress

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Chris Pappas Member of Congress

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Rick Larsen Member of Congress

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Glenn "GT" Thompson Member of Congress

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