September 22, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As the House works to enact further appropriations legislation for FY 2018, we urge you to strengthen and protect medical research funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). To maintain America’s role as a global leader in innovation and groundbreaking medical discoveries, we respectfully request that you continue NIH’s support for facilities and administrative (F&A) research costs in any further appropriations bill enacted for FY 2018.

On a bipartisan basis, members of Congress have repeatedly demonstrated our clear and unambiguous support for NIH-funded medical research. We know these investments help us push the boundaries of scientific knowledge, advance promising research and offer hope to millions of Americans who are suffering. Funding for this life-saving work is also a key economic driver, supporting more than 400,000 jobs and generating over $60 billion in new economic activity. It delivers a significant return on our investment today and for generations to come.

For all these reasons, Congress has collectively dedicated $4 billion in additional resources for NIH-funded research in the last few years, including as recently as April, when the President signed an omnibus appropriations bill that provided another significant boost in the agency’s funding. Now is not the time to undermine this momentum. Particularly as scientists pursue cutting-edge innovations in precision medicine, immunotherapy and genomics, we should not be taking steps that could severely hamper medical research across the country.

Maintaining federal support for F&A research costs is vitally important to our nation’s health and our medical innovation capacity in the 21st century. Simply put, scientists cannot conduct research for the federal government without incurring these costs. Support for F&A helps cover critical components of doing research — such as hazardous waste disposal, proper and secure storage of dangerous pathogens, maintenance of high-tech labs and essential personnel. That’s why we welcomed provisions in both the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bills for FY 2018, as well as the short-term continuing resolution enacted earlier this month, to preserve NIH’s support for these essential research costs. We strongly support the retention of this language in any further appropriations bill enacted for FY 2018. Accelerating the development of new cures, therapies and vaccines demands that we continue to support vital research costs like these.
While we understand the difficult fiscal challenges you face, we urge you to prioritize the important role NIH plays in medical innovation and economic growth by protecting and strengthening federally funded research in FY 2018. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

John Katko  
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress
James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress
John J. Faso
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress