

November 18, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, the world's largest organization composed of scientists, clinicians, and other health care providers dedicated to the research and treatment of hormone diseases, I write to urge you to pass the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill as soon as possible. The programs and services funded by the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee have a profound impact on people with diabetes and other endocrine diseases, the research and medical workforce, and the opportunities to advance biomedical discoveries. Failing to enact the FY 2022 bill and relying on continuing resolutions (CRs) would be a grave missed opportunity to improve the lives of all Americans.

Endocrine-related diseases include diabetes, cancer, obesity, thyroid disease, osteoporosis, infertility, and many other conditions affecting the endocrine system. Research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has led to incredible accomplishments that have impacted the lives of millions of people, such as the discovery and development of insulin, early detection of tumors, prevention of bone fractures, and treatments to preserve fertility for patients who have received cancer treatment. Further advancements are within reach and could lead to the development of new and needed treatments, including drugs to replace cells in the pancreas lost due to disease, identification of biomarkers to detect early-stage pancreatic cancer and identification of individuals at high risk for diabetes, and more effective nutritional recommendations to improve pregnancy outcomes.

We are seriously concerned that the lack of progress in appropriations negotiations means Congress is moving towards a full-year CR. While short term CRs are challenging enough, the possibility of a year-long CR could be catastrophic as our nation continues to struggle to return to normalcy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. A year-long CR would force grant-funding agencies like the NIH to adopt conservative funding policies, holding back on investments in new areas of life-saving research and damaging existing ongoing research efforts. Unreliable and unpredictable funding streams hurt the nation's scientific enterprise, interrupt the workforce pipeline, and damage America's competitiveness globally.

I urge you to pass the FY 2022 appropriations bill as soon as possible, support at least \$46.4 billion for the NIH in FY 2022, and avoid the damaging trend of long-term CRs. Please



contact the Endocrine Society's Research Affairs Director Joe Laakso (jlaakso@endocrine.org), if we can provide any additional information to you about this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol H. Wysham".

Carol Wysham, MD
President, Endocrine Society