

January 29, 2015

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Senate Minority Whip  
United States Senate


Dear Senator Durbin,

The Endocrine Society would like to thank you for introducing the American Cures Act. Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society is the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology. The Endocrine Society's membership of over 18,000 includes many clinical and basic science researchers supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the other biomedical research agencies and programs listed in the American Cures Act. We are therefore very appreciative of your understanding of the critical role of biomedical research in the health and well-being of Americans, and we recognize your commendable efforts in support of the NIH and other funding agencies.

The Endocrine Society applauds the legislation's recognition that federal funding for biomedical research should not be "discretionary." We acknowledge and support your position that sustainable growth in lifesaving research will continue to be stunted until Congress repeals austerity measures, including the Budget Control Act and sequestration. The NIH depends on a broad research enterprise that integrates fundamental discoveries in basic science with translational and clinical science. Increasingly, impactful research on human health relies on information from numerous sources of expertise and diverse research teams. For instance the BRAIN Initiative will rely on collaborative input from NIH, NSF, DARPA and FDA in addition to private industry, to produce positive impacts on human mental health. Repeal of austerity measures will be required to maximize the investment that the American Cures Act rightly seeks to achieve.

The Endocrine Society is most appreciative for your continued leadership in championing for the NIH and other federal agencies that fund research, and we are pleased to endorse the American Cures Act. We would be happy to work with you as the American Cures Act develops, and in any other ongoing efforts in support of biomedical research. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time by contacting Mila Becker, Senior Director of Advocacy & Policy Programs at [mbecker@endocrine.org](mailto:mbecker@endocrine.org).

Sincerely,



Richard J. Santen, MD  
President, the Endocrine Society