

July 10, 2015

Dear Speaker John Boehner:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, I am writing to urge you to oppose Amendment No. 29 to the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6) offered by Representatives Dave Brat, Tom McClintock, Scott Garrett, and Marlin Stutzman. The Brat amendment would make the Cures Innovation Fund a discretionary source of funds for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), rather than a mandatory funding stream. By changing the source of funds, the Cures Innovation Fund would undermine other programs that help maximize our ability to deliver the most effective therapies to patients in the most efficient ways.

Our society represents more than 18,000 scientists and clinicians dedicated to promoting excellence in research, education, and clinical practice in the field of endocrinology. We strongly support the goals of the 21st Century Cures Act to accelerate the pace of discovery, development, and delivery of life saving and life improving therapies. Sustained investment by the United States federal government in biomedical research has dramatically advanced the health and improved the lives of the American people. The Brat amendment would significantly impair the ability of 21st Century Cures to achieve the transformative change it rightly seeks. If we are to empower researchers and doctors to deliver on the promise of 21st Century Cures, we must not further erode important programs that are already subject to austerity measures through the Budget Control Act and sequestration.

In conclusion, we strongly oppose the Brat amendment and urge you to protect the NIH and Cures Innovation Fund. We look forward to working with you on the legislation as it moves forward and as you secure much needed funding for the NIH and FDA.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fish, MD
President
Endocrine Society