November 17, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi, and Reid:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to urge Congress to complete work on fiscal year 2017 (FY17) appropriations before the end of the year and, as part of that legislation, to provide at least $34 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

One of the many counter-strategic consequences of failing to complete the FY17 appropriations process this year would be stagnation in the lifesaving research funding provided by NIH. This research is key in disarming cancer, fighting antibiotic resistant “superbugs,” solving the Alzheimer’s disease epidemic, and confronting other deadly and debilitating health threats. The research supported by NIH does not work on the fiscal calendar because the best science often needs several years to move from questions to breakthroughs. Without the certainty of funding in FY17, researchers and innovators like those supported by NIH cannot drive progress faster; a missed opportunity that would allow disease to claim ever more lives.

By passing FY17 appropriations bills this year, Congress can send a message of strength that even in times of political division, Congress supports core American values and aims. America has never been a nation to idly watch others surpass us, and completing your work on FY17 spending bills by the end of this year will strengthen our national commitment to progress. We urge you to move forward by the end of this year and provide NIH and our nation’s other health agencies the funding needed to ensure that America remains a strong, innovative and healthy democracy and society.

Thank you and your respective staff members for your commitment and diligence.

Sincerely,

Research!America
Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health
Academy of Radiology Research
ActivistsAgainstAlzheimer’s Network
Addario Lung Cancer Medical Institute
AfricanAmericanNetworkAgainstAlzheimer’s
AgeneBio, Inc.
AIDS ACTION BALTIMORE
Gene Giraffe Project
Geoffrey Beene Foundation
George Washington University
Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education (Georgia CORE)
GeoVax, Inc.
Get Up Stand Up to Cure Paralysis
Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Hepatitis Foundation International
HIV Medicine Association
Hydrocephalus Association
IEEE-USA
IMRIS, Inc.
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
International WAGR Syndrome Association
International Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia Foundation
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo
Johns Hopkins Postdoctoral Association
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Johnson & Johnson
Klippel-Feil Syndrome Freedom
LatinosAgainstAlzheimer’s
Leroy Hood Institute for Systems Biology
Louisiana State University, Office of Research and Economic Development
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute
Loyola University Chicago
Lung Cancer Alliance
Lupus Foundation of America
Lymphatic Education & Research Network, NY State Chapter
March of Dimes
Meharry Medical College
Mended Hearts
Moffitt Cancer Center
Morehouse School of Medicine
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National MPS Society
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Nemours Children’s Health System
NephCure Kidney International
Neurotechnology Industry Organization (NIO)
New York University
North American Vascular Biology Organization
Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED)
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research
Organic Acidemia Association
Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS)
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD)
Partners HealthCare
Patient Services, Inc.
Penn Medicine
Population Association of America
Prion Alliance
Project Inform
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer’s Network
Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University
Science Policy & Outreach Group (SPOG) at University of Louisville School of Medicine
ScienceDebate.org
Scleroderma Foundation
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center
Sigma Xi The Scientific Research Honor Society
Sleep Research Society
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
Spina Bifida Association
SSADH Association
St. George’s University School of Medicine
Susan G. Komen
Taylor's Tale
The ALS Association
The Council of Scientific Society Presidents
The Genetics Society of America
The Kavli Foundation
The Kortney Rose Foundation
The Lymphatic Malformation Institute
The Marfan Foundation
The Rockefeller University
The Santa Fe Group
The University of Maryland, Baltimore
The Veterans Health Council
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
Tulane University
Tulane University Health Sciences Center
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health
United for Medical Research
University of California, San Francisco
University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
US Hereditary Angioedema Association
UsAgainstAlzheimer’s
USF Health Byrd Alzheimer’s Institute
Usher 1F Collaborative
UVA Health System
Vietnam Veterans of America
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research
William S Dynan scientific consulting
WomenAgainstAlzheimer’s Network
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
Yale School of Medicine
Yale University School of Nursing
Yerkes National Primate Research Center

Adam T. Eggebrecht, Ph.D, Washington University School of Medicine
Amy Compton-Phillips, MD, Providence St. Joseph Health
Anne B Young, MD, PhD, Harvard University
Aron Lukacher, M.D., Ph.D., Penn State College of Medicine
Ashley Haase, University of Minnesota
Carol Greider, Johns Hopkins University
Chi Van Dang, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania
Colleen McClung, Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Cynthia Wolberger, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Daniel G. Colley, Ph.D., Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases, University of Georgia
David Kingston, Virginia Tech
David Weinshenker, Ph.D., Emory University School of Medicine
Dennis Mangan, Ph.D., Retired scientist
Douglas C. Eaton, Emory University
Douglas E. Brash, PhD, Yale School of Medicine
Robin Davisson, Cornell University
Elaine Fuchs, Rockefeller University
Florence Rogers, Ambassador Alzheimer's Assn.
Harold M. Maurer, M.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center
Jack Dixon, University of California at San Diego
Jacquelyn Campbell
Jed F. Fisher, University of Notre Dame
Jennifer L. Larsen, MD, University of Nebraska Medical Center
John C. Cambier, PhD, University of Colorado School of Medicine
John L Hartman IV, MD, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Jonathan R. Cole, Columbia University
José Jalife, M.D., University of Michigan
Kathryn Kahler Vose
Kathryn Phillips, University of California, San Francisco
Kathy D. Wright, Case Western Reserve University
Lawrence Rothblum, Ph.D., University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Lin Mei, Medical College of Georgia
Lynn R. Goldman, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., Milken Institute School of Public Health
Martha A. Alexander-Miller, PhD, Wake Forest School of Medicine
Melissa Perry, George Washington University
Michael Fox, PhD, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute
Michael Welsh, University of Iowa
Paul M Horn, New York University
Ray Dingledine, PhD, Emory University School of Medicine
Reisa Sperling, M.D., Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital
Sam A. Donaldson
Seth Mnookin, M.I.T.
Shaun O'Brien
Steven Teitelbaum
Susan Whitehead
Suzanne Wenzel, PhD, University of Southern California
T. Conrad Gilliam, PhD, The University of Chicago
Valerie Toly, PhD, RN, CPNP, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University
Virginia B. Rogers
Zena Werb, Ph.D., University of California, San Francisco
Addendum

Signatories added to the November 17, 2016 group letter regarding FY17 appropriations

AAFA
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology (ASCP)
American Society of Hematology (ASH)
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Association of American Medical Colleges
AVAC
BD
Bodylanguage, LLC
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Forsyth Institute
Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California
National Lymphedema Network
National Minority AIDS Council
Noah's Hope
Prostatitis Foundation
Vanderbilt University

Andrew P. Reimer, PhD, RN, CFRN, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University
Elizabeth G. Damato, PhD, RN, Case Western Reserve University
Gilbert S. Omenn, MD, PhD, University of Michigan
Michael J. Klag, MD, MPH ’87, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health