March 20, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers  The Honorable Norman Dicks
Chairman  Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations  Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515  Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg  The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman  Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education  Subcommittee on Labor, HHS &
Education  U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives  Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Rehberg and Ranking Members Dicks and DeLauro:

As Members of Congress who know and value the important role of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in job creation, economic growth, and bettering the lives of millions of Americans, we respectfully request a funding level of at least $32 billion for FY 2013. We feel this level is absolutely vital in order for NIH to continue improving health through medical science breakthroughs and to maintain international leadership in science and biomedical research.

With federal funding of at least $32 billion, NIH can continue to serve as the world’s preeminent medical research institution and our nation’s best hope for finding cures, improving treatments, and gaining a better understanding of the complex causes of diseases that affect millions of Americans.

NIH must be fully funded if we want to discover the next medical breakthroughs in America and not import them from China or India. Our international leadership in science and technology is not inevitable. A report by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) found that in the past 10 years, Asia’s share of research and development increased from 24 to 32 percent while in the United States research expenditures decreased from 38 to 31 percent.

NIH is also a key pillar of our economic recovery, generating high-paying jobs in the cutting-edge biomedical research industry and keeping America competitive in biomedical science. More than 80 percent of NIH’s budget supports over 350,000
NIH

scientist and research personnel, as well as the acquisition of goods and services from every state. An increase in funding would lead to greater job growth.

Today, only one in six grant applications can be funded at NIH. While some of us, as well as many patient advocates and biomedical researchers, feel that $35 billion is what is truly needed to sustain NIH’s research and public health missions, we understand the unprecedented budgetary constraints faced by the Appropriations Committee.

In light of the difficult decisions ahead, we want to stress the importance of NIH as a job creator, a driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation’s soaring healthcare costs. We appreciate your consideration of our request of at least $32 billion for NIH’s FY 2013 budget.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
Rep. Edward J. Markey

Joe Courtney
Rep. Joe Courtney

Brian Higgins
Rep. Brian Higgins

Sander Levin
Rep. Sander Levin

Jan Schakowsky
Rep. Jan Schakowsky

Karen Bass

Howard L. Berman
Rep. Howard L. Berman

Andre Carson
Rep. Andre Carson

Brian Bilbray
Rep. Brian Bilbray

Susan Davis
Rep. Susan Davis

Rush Holt
Rep. Rush Holt

Jackie Speier
Rep. Jackie Speier

Charles R. Bass
Rep. Charles Bass

Xavier Becerra
Rep. Xavier Becerra

Dennis Cardoza
Rep. Dennis Cardoza

Hansen Clarke
Rep. Hansen Clarke
Rep. Diana DeGette
Rep. John Dingell
Rep. Keith Ellison
Rep. Bob Filner
Rep. Charles Gonzalez
Rep. Raul Grijalva
Rep. Alcee Hastings
Rep. Maurice Hinchey
Rep. Mazie Hirono
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton
Rep. Hank Johnson
Rep. William Keating
Rep. Ted Deutch
Rep. Michael Doyle
Rep. Eliot Engel
Rep. Barney Frank
Rep. Al Green
Rep. Luis Gutierrez
Rep. Martin Heinrich
Rep. Ruben Hinojosa
Rep. Tim Holden
Rep. Steve Israel
Rep. Dale Kildee
Rep. Ron Kind

Rep. James Langevin

Rep. John Lewis

Rep. David Loebsack

Rep. Stephen Lynch

Rep. Carolyn McCarthy

Rep. Gwen Moore

Rep. Jerrold Nadler

Rep. John W. Olver

Rep. Chellie Pingree

Rep. Nick Rahall

Rep. Dennis Kucinich

Rep. Rick Larsen

Rep. Daniel Lipinski

Rep. Ben Ray Luján

Rep. Carolyn Maloney

Rep. Jim McDermott

Rep. Christopher Murphy

Rep. Richard E. Neal

Rep. Bill Pascrell

Rep. Mike Quigley

Rep. Charles B. Rangel