SECTION 1. TITLE, TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The discussion draft amends Section 401 of the Public Health Service Act, which describes the organizational structure of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The discussion draft does not eliminate or consolidate any existing national research institutes or centers. The draft divides existing institutes and centers into two major categories: mission specific institutes and science enabling institutes and centers.

The following institutes are categorized as mission specific institutes:
1. National Cancer Institute
2. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
3. National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
4. National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease
5. National Institute on Aging
6. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease
7. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
8. National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
9. National Eye Institute
10. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
11. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
12. National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders
13. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
14. National Institute on Drug Abuse
15. National Institute of Mental Health

The following institutes and centers are categorized as science enabling institutes and centers:
1. National Institute of General Medical Sciences
2. National Institute of Nursing Research
3. National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
4. National Human Genome Research Institute
5. National Library of Medicine
6. National Center for Research Resources
7. John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences
8. National Center of Complementary and Alternative Medicine
9. National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities

The discussion draft establishes within the Office of the Director a Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives. The Division will house the Office of AIDS Research, the Office of Research on Women’s Health, the Office for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, the Office of Disease Prevention, the Office of Dietary Supplements, the Office of Rare Diseases, and any other office designated by the Director.
The discussion draft limits the total number of institutes with mission specific responsibilities to 15 and the total number of institutes and centers with science-enabling responsibilities to 9.

Under current law, the Secretary may reorganize the institutes and centers with notice to Congress. The discussion draft authorizes the Director to reorganize the institutes and centers subject to three requirements: approval of the Secretary; a public process, carried out by regulations; and notice to Congress. The discussion draft also permits the Director, with the approval of the Secretary, to reorganize the offices within the Office of the Director. The director of an institute or center may, with the approval of the Director of NIH, reorganize the divisions, centers, or other administrative units within an institute or center.

SECTION 3. AUTHORITY OF THE NIH DIRECTOR
The discussion draft amends Section 402 of the Public Health Service Act to outline the authorities of the Director of NIH. In addition to existing authorities, the discussion draft delineates several new authorities. The Director will be responsible for program coordination, including conducting priority setting reviews, to ensure that the research portfolio of the NIH is balanced and free of unnecessary, duplicative research. The Director must assemble accurate data to be used to assess research priorities. The Director is responsible for strategic planning and priority setting of all research activities conducted or supported by NIH. The Director shall ensure that the resources of NIH are sufficiently allocated for research projects identified in strategic plans.

Through the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives the Director will identify research that is important to the advancement of biomedical science and involves the responsibilities of more than one institute or center (trans-NIH research activities). The Director will be empowered with the same grant making authorities that currently reside at the national research institutes and centers to conduct trans-NIH research activities. These new grant making authorities will be subject to approval by an Advisory Council of the Director. The Director shall ensure that research conducted or supported by NIH is subject to peer review before research proposals are approved for funding. The Director must approve the establishment of all centers of excellence recommended by the institutes.

Section 3 also amends current statute to clarify that special consultants may be hired to manage, supervise, assist, and advise in the operations of the NIH.

SECTION 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
The discussion draft establishes four specific authorization of appropriations line items for the fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2009 period. They are:
1. Office of the Director
2. Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives within the Office of the Director
3. Institutes with mission-specific responsibilities
4. Institutes and centers with science-enabling responsibilities

The discussion draft strikes out statutory authorization of appropriations line items that are expired or have never received a direct appropriation.
The discussion draft authorizes the Director of NIH to transfer a portion of the appropriated funding for trans-NIH research activities identified by the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives. The Director may also transfer dollars between institutes and centers. The discussion draft limits the total amount that the Director may transfer from an institute or center.

SECTION 5. REPORTS
The discussion draft requires the NIH to establish an electronic system to uniformly code research grants and activities throughout the NIH. The electronic coding system must be searchable by a variety of codes, such as the type of research grant, the research entity managing the grant, and the public health area interest. When permissible, the Director must provide information on relevant literature and patents that are associated with research activities of the NIH.

The discussion draft requires the Director of NIH to submit biennially a report to Congress. The report must include an assessment of the state of biomedical research, a description of the activities conducted or supported by the NIH, classification and justification for the priorities established by the agencies, including a strategic plan and recommendations for future research initiatives to be carried out by the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives.

The report must include a catalogue of all the research activities of the agencies. The catalogue must include epidemiological studies and longitudinal studies; disease registries, information clearing houses, and other data systems; public education and information campaigns; and training activities.

The report must include a summary of the research activities throughout NIH, organized by the following categories: cancer; neurosciences; life stages and human development; organ systems and autoimmune diseases; genomics; molecular biology and basic science; technology development; and any other additional categories as the Director determines to be appropriate.

With respect to mission-specific research activities, the Director must present information in a standardized format, identify the actual dollar amounts obligated for such activities; and include plans for research on specific diseases, disorders, and conditions, including statements of objectives regarding the research, the means for achieving the objectives, and a date by which the objectives are expected to be achieved, and justifications for revisions to the plans.

The Director may submit additional reports to Congress as he determines appropriate. All other duplicative reporting requirements are eliminated.

SECTION 6. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS
“Bridging the Sciences Demonstration Program.” The discussion draft authorizes the Director of NIH, in consultation with the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Secretary of Energy, to award grants for demonstration projects for research at the interface between biological sciences and the physical, chemical, mathematical, and computational sciences.
“High Risk, High Reward Research.” The discussion draft authorizes the Director of NIH to award grants, contracts, or engage in other transactions, for high-impact, cutting edge research demonstration program.

SECTION 7. FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
The discussion draft makes technical corrections and improvements to Section 499 of the Public Health Service Act, which establishes the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.