

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 18, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the House continues crafting appropriations legislation before the current continuing resolution expires on December 11, 2015, we write to express our strong support for increasing the funding provided to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In any forthcoming appropriations legislation for FY 2016, we urge you to work with your colleagues in the Senate to ensure NIH receives an annual funding level of at least \$32 billion, equal to the level approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee, in order to maintain America's role as a global leader in biomedical research and ground-breaking medical discoveries.


We are concerned that, over the last 12 years, the federal government's contributions toward basic research at NIH have consistently failed to keep pace with inflation. By failing to at least hold NIH funding constant with other rising costs, Congress has allowed the agency's purchasing power to diminish by more than 20 percent since 2003. Indiscriminate budget cuts imposed on the agency during sequestration only further exacerbated this trend, reducing NIH's budget by an additional 5 percent in FY 2013. As the growth in other countries' investments in medical research continues to far outpace those made here in the U.S., it is more critical than ever that we act to reverse this trend.


Insufficient funding for NIH has a serious, wide-ranging impact on our nation's health and our capacity for medical innovation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If we are serious about breaking new ground in our understanding of complex diseases like Alzheimer's and cancer, and if we hope to accelerate the speed with which new cures, treatments and vaccines are developed, then it's absolutely essential that we increase funding for medical research at NIH. Particularly given the significant investments in NIH approved earlier this year by both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, we feel strongly that now is the time to commit to our nation's long-term health and prosperity.


While we understand the difficult fiscal challenges you face, we urge you to prioritize the important role that NIH plays in biomedical research and economic growth by working to fund


the agency at an annual level of at least \$32 billion. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which will make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of Americans.

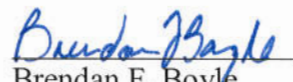
Sincerely,

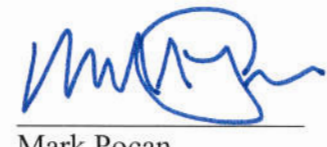
  
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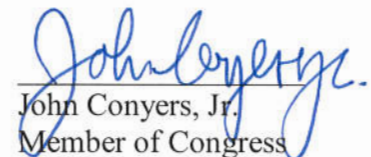
  
Sander M. Levin  
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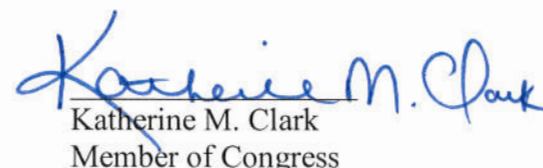
  
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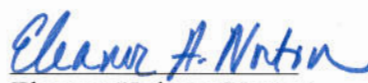
  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Pete Aguilar  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
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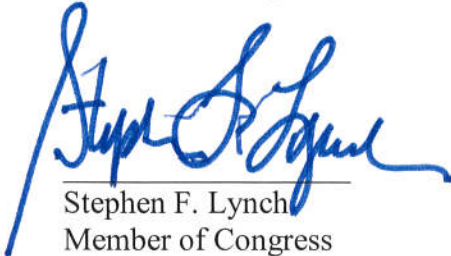
  
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Daniel Lipinski  
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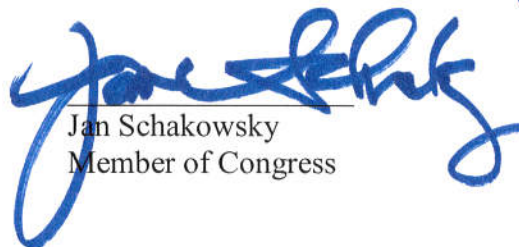
  
Theodore E. Deutch  
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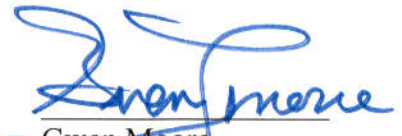
  
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Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress


  
Eliot L. Engel  
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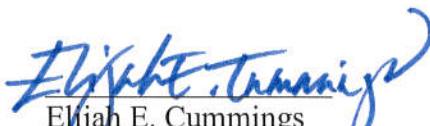
  
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Elijah E. Cummings  
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Peter Welch  
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James P. McGovern  
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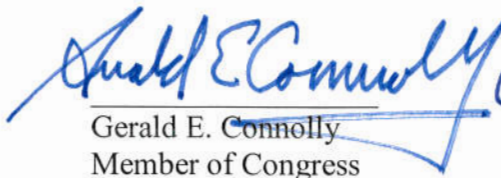
  
Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
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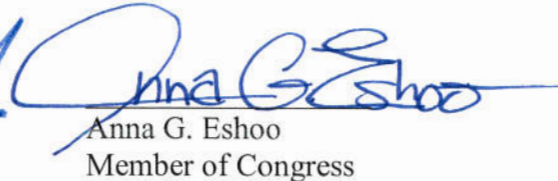
  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



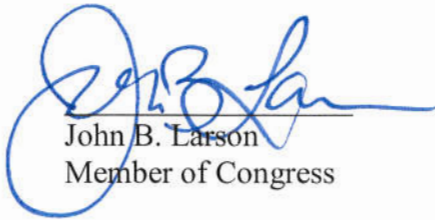
Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



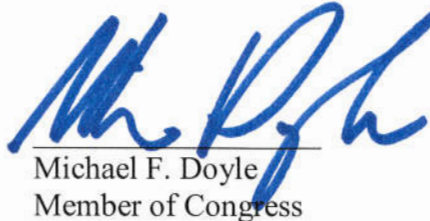
Gerald E. Connolly  
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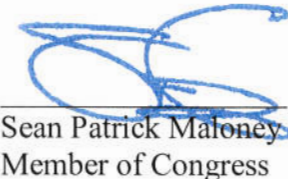
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Sean Patrick Maloney  
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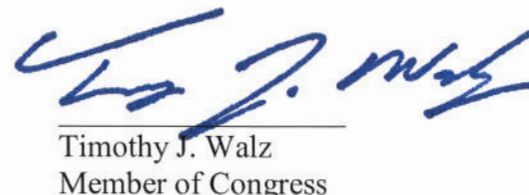
Lois Frankel  
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Member of Congress



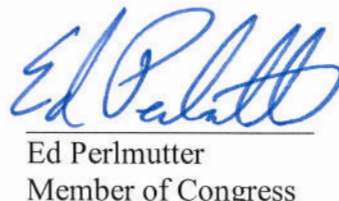
Doris O. Matsui  
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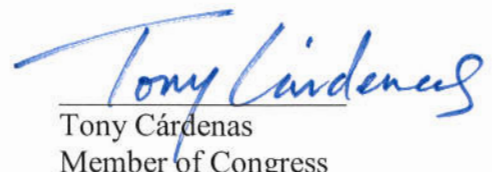
Timothy J. Walz  
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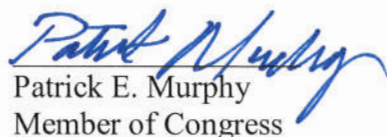
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



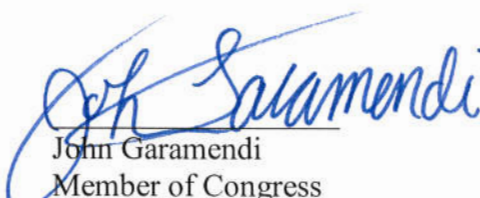
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



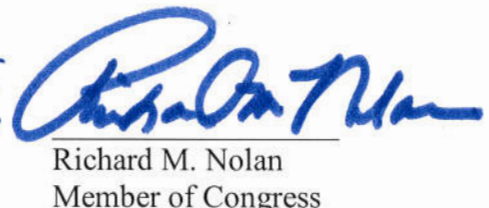
Tony Cárdenas  
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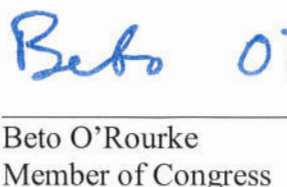
Patrick E. Murphy  
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



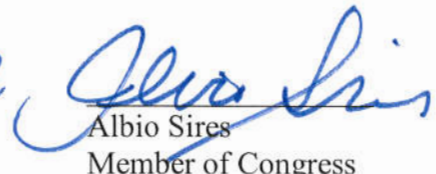
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Beto O'Rourke  
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Alan Lowenthal  
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Albio Sires  
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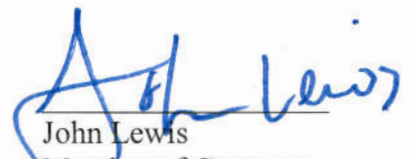




Filemon Vela  
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Brian Higgins  
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John Lewis  
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Kathy Castor  
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Dana Rohrabacher  
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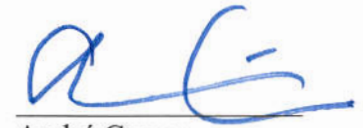
Peter A. DeFazio  
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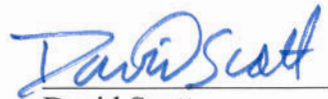
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Loretta Sanchez  
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André Carson  
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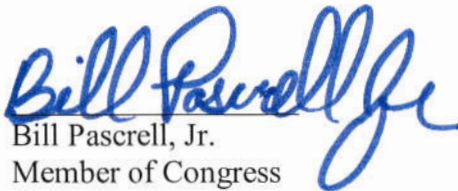
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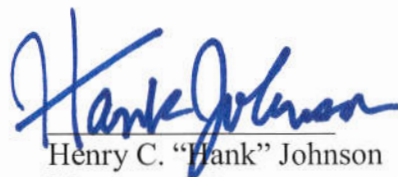
Adam Smith  
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Michael G. Fitzpatrick  
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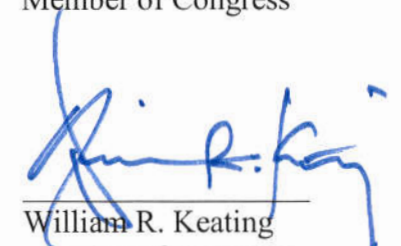
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Rodney Davis  
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
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Judy Chu  
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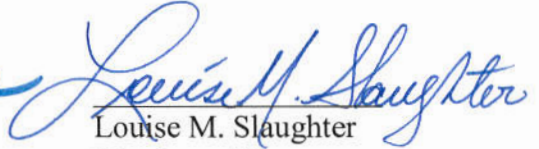
  
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Luis V. Gutiérrez  
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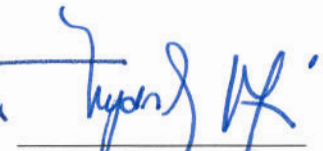
  
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Ron Kind  
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Ann McLane Kuster  
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Nydia Velázquez  
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Donald Norcross  
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
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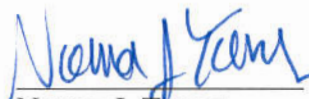
  
Mark DeSaulnier  
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Julia Brownley  
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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
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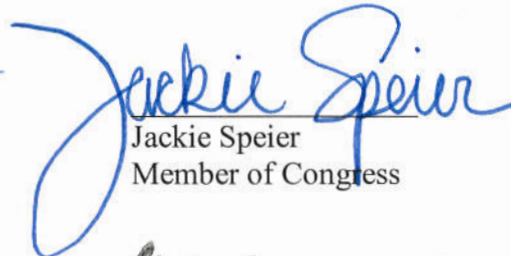
  
Ted W. Lieu  
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Tom Marino  
Member of Congress

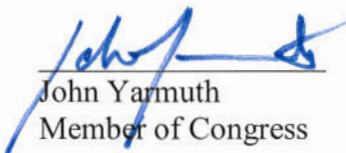
  
Norma J. Torres  
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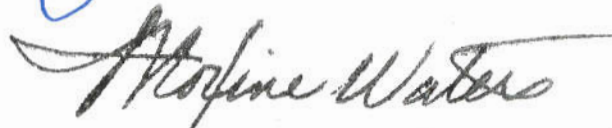
  
Kurt Schrader  
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Jackie Speier  
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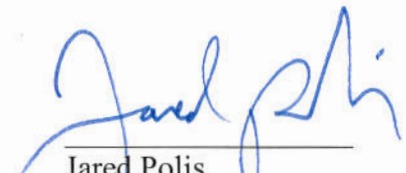
  
John Yarmuth  
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Maxine Waters  
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Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress

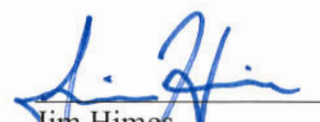
  
Mike Thompson  
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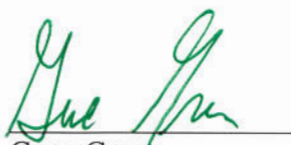
  
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Steve Stivers  
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Mark Takano  
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Jim Himes  
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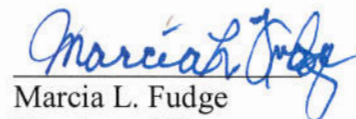
  
Joaquin Castro  
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Gene Green  
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Ben Ray Lujan  
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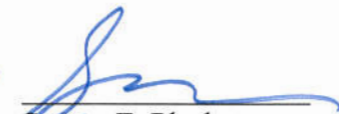
  
Chaka Fattah  
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Dina Titus  
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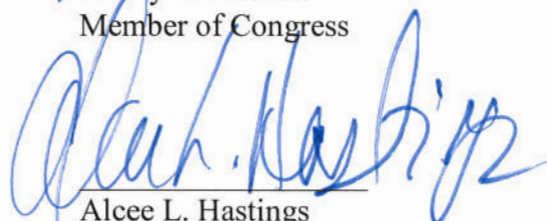
  
Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress

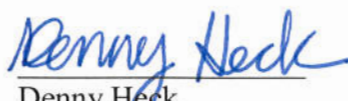
  
Frederica S. Wilson  
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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress

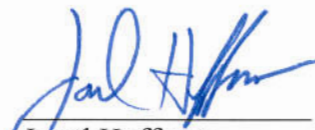
  
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Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

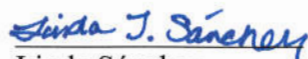
  
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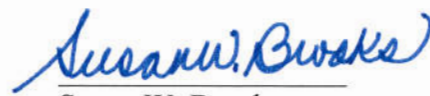
  
John Katko  
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Betty McCollum  
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Frank Guinta  
Member of Congress

  
Linda Sánchez  
Member of Congress

  
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

  
Susan W. Brooks  
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Alma Adams  
Member of Congress

CC: Hon. Tom Cole, Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chair  
Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member