



# ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Health, Education, Labor  
and Pensions Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member, Energy and Commerce  
Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Upton, and Ranking Members Murray and Pallone:

AAU urges Congress to pass the 21st Century Cures Act during its current session.

AAU welcomes the legislation's "Innovation Fund" for the National Institutes of Health. This critical funding for NIH would assist our nation's premier health agency catch up from more than a decade of flat funding and ensure that the United States remains in the forefront of medical innovation. It would support thousands more researchers as they seek to advance discovery and innovation to find new treatments and cures for diseases.

In addition, AAU supports measures in the Cures Act that encourage the next generation of the biomedical research workforce. We applaud the inclusion of language establishing a Research Policy Group as well as directions for federal agencies to reduce the research regulatory burden without weakening oversight in such areas as animal welfare, sub-recipient monitoring, and financial conflict of interest reporting.

The tremendous bipartisan work in the House and Senate on the NIH package should not go unfulfilled. AAU and its 62 research universities look forward to working with Congress to realize the Cures promise in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman  
President  
Association of American Universities

Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Brown University  
California Institute of Technology  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Emory University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Harvard University  
Indiana University  
Iowa State University  
The Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
McGill University  
Michigan State University  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
The Ohio State University  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
Rice University  
Rutgers, The State University  
of New Jersey  
Stanford University  
Stony Brook University –  
State University of New York  
Texas A&M University  
Tulane University  
University at Buffalo –  
State University of New York  
The University of Arizona  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa  
Barbara  
The University of Chicago  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Florida  
University of Illinois, Urbana-  
Champaign  
The University of Iowa  
The University of Kansas  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
University of Missouri, Columbia  
The University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rochester  
University of Southern California  
The University of Texas at Austin  
University of Toronto  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Yale University