



ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC &
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN
UNIVERSITIES

November 10, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of our associations' more than 200 research universities, we respectfully urge Congress to pass and send to the president this year a 21st Century Cures/medical innovation bill which provides a surge of multi-year, guaranteed funding as well as robust authorization levels for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The House and Senate's bipartisan efforts on such legislation in the 114th Congress have been truly extraordinary and should not go unfulfilled.

As NIH Director Francis Collins has indicated many times, the state of biomedical research is at a point of exceptional scientific opportunity, with promise for advances in medicine greater than ever before. The research and people supported by the NIH will achieve these advances, improving the lives of patients and their families as well as boosting the U.S. economy and strengthening our global competitiveness.

We believe that legislation to complement the recent appropriations efforts for NIH can help this important agency catch up from a decade of declining budgets and keep up with the current and evolving promise of biomedical research. The surge funding must, of course, supplement and not supplant annual appropriations. Additionally, provisions in the House and Senate bills to provide regulatory relief and encourage the next generation of the biomedical research workforce are also significant. We would welcome their inclusion in the final 21st Century Cures/medical innovation bill.

Thank you for the work thus far on this important legislation. When Congress returns to Washington later this month, we strongly encourage you to seize this notable opportunity and move an NIH Cures/innovation bill over the finish line.

Sincerely,

Peter McPherson
President, APLU

Mary Sue Coleman
President, AAU