

Ad Hoc Group Statement on NIH Funding in Draft House FY 22 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill

July 12, 2021 – *The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research issued the following statement in response to the draft fiscal year (FY) 2022 spending bill released July 11 by the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee (Labor-HHS), which includes funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).*

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research enthusiastically commends the \$49 billion provided in the draft spending bill for the NIH overall, including over \$46 billion for the agency's core funding. Every dollar invested in the foundational research the NIH conducts and supports in labs nationwide brings us one step closer to cures, treatments, diagnostics, and preventive strategies that promise better health for patients, families, and communities everywhere. We applaud the draft bill's recognition of this critical investment with a funding level for the NIH's base that exceeds the Ad Hoc Group's recommendation for FY 2022.

In particular, we are grateful that the draft bill and its historic investment in NIH recognizes the need to grow research capacity across disease areas, disciplines, and priorities throughout the agency, in addition to any targeted initiatives. Sustained, robust growth in medical research broadly is key to facilitating discoveries that will address both our most intractable challenges and, as illustrated throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, threats that have yet to emerge. This foundation will be critical to the success of the proposed new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health as well, and we appreciate that the draft bill includes funding that supplements, rather than supplants, the NIH's base.

The longstanding leadership of Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro and Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole, along with their Senate counterparts, has been instrumental in supporting the NIH to recover lost ground over the last six years after more than a decade of effectively flat funding and to advance new groundbreaking science. As the FY 2022 process gets underway, we look forward to reviewing additional details of the bill, and we urge the Subcommittee to continue the strong tradition of rejecting problematic restrictions on medical research. We welcome the opportunity to continue working with both the Subcommittee and their Senate colleagues toward timely enactment of a final spending bill that maximizes the investment in the NIH and the medical miracles that it yields.

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