



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

For circulation to solicit endorsements.

The Ad Hoc Group Fiscal Year 2020 Recommendation

The ### undersigned members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, which represents patient groups, scientific societies, research institutions, health professionals, educators, and industry, is extremely grateful to Congress for making meaningful, reliable funding support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) a key national priority. These investments in the NIH yield compound dividends in the form of improved health and quality of life for Americans, young and old.

For FY 2020, the Ad Hoc Group recommends an appropriation of at least \$41.6 billion for the NIH, a \$2.5 billion increase over the NIH's program level funding in FY 2019. This funding level would allow for meaningful growth above inflation in the base budget that would expand NIH's capacity to support promising science in all disciplines. It also would ensure that funding from the Innovation Account established in the 21st Century Cures Act would supplement the agency's base budget, as intended, through dedicated funding for specific programs.

As a result of the strong, bipartisan vision of Senate and House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee leaders Roy Blunt, Patty Murray, Rosa DeLauro, and Tom Cole, over the last four years, Congress has helped the agency regain some of the ground lost after years of effectively flat budgets. This most welcome renewed investment in NIH has advanced discovery toward promising therapies and diagnostics, reenergized existing and aspiring scientists nationwide, and restored hope for patients and their families. To further realize the potential of medical research, we must continue this forward momentum.

We recognize that the impractical budget caps imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 restrict the ability of appropriators to invest adequately in critical federal priorities. To enable the FY 2020 appropriations process to advance in a timely manner, we urge Congress to swiftly reach a bipartisan budget agreement that sufficiently raises the nondefense discretionary spending caps to ensure continued scientific innovation and progress in medical research. We believe that any discretionary caps deal must treat nondefense increases similar to defense increases. We further urge a funding allocation for the Labor-HHS Subcommittee that allows for the necessary investment in NIH and other agencies that promote the health of our nation.