



May 5, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcmte
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcmte
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcmte
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcmte
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairs Murray, DeLauro and Ranking Members Blunt and Cole:

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), which represents leading scientific research institutions and industries, and patient advocates, we thank you for your consistent and critical support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and ask you to maintain the agency’s momentum to meet today’s enormous public health challenges.

To continue breaking new ground on pandemic preparedness, find cures for our most vexing diseases, and maintain NIH’s place as the world’s premier biomedical research agency, **we urge the Labor-HHS subcommittee to provide an increase to the agency’s base budget of \$3.5 billion for FY 2023.**

America and the world have endured an extremely difficult few years with COVID-19. But thanks to NIH-supported foundational research conducted years ago on messenger RNA, the spike protein and even the Human Genome Project, our biomedical research community unleashed the stunningly rapid development of highly effective COVID-19 vaccines. With robust and sustainable funding today, NIH will once again help drive the foundational research necessary to fight emerging infectious threats and the next pandemic.

In addition to the groundbreaking discoveries and innovations that save lives and improve public health in the United States and around the world is the exponential return on investment in NIH. According to a [UMR report](#) released in March, research funding from NIH supported 552,444 jobs and generated \$94.18 billion in economic activity last year — or \$2.60 of economic activity for every \$1 of research funding. The report details NIH funding and the related economic activity in every state and the District of Columbia.

Congress must also recognize the aggressive investment in research by other countries that threatens NIH’s longtime place as the world leader in biomedical research. According to the National Science Foundation’s *Science and Engineering Indicators*, the average annual rate of increase in China’s research and development total (10.6% from 2010–19) continues to greatly exceed that of the United States (5.6%). Several other countries, including Germany and South Korea, also increased their spending at

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- Washington University in St. Louis

rates higher than the United States. To keep America's biomedical research community the envy of the world – and to keep our life sciences industry globally competitive – we must ensure steady and sustainable growth in the NIH budget over the long term.

UMR also is closely following the ongoing efforts to create a structure for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Health (ARPA-H). We are encouraged by the Biden Administration's commitment to additional biomedical research, but we also are concerned that new funding for ARPA-H could supplant critical funding to NIH's base budget this year and in future years. We look forward to working with you on how Congress will approach funding both agencies.

Again, UMR is grateful for your continued leadership, and we urge you to stand firm in your support of NIH with an increase of \$3.5 billion for FY 2023. A strong NIH budget for FY 2023 will help ensure that the United States continues making biomedical research innovation a national priority, and we maintain our global leadership in life sciences.

Sincerely,

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Sally Guthrie
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