



January 20, 2022

Senator Patty Murray  
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcommittee  
United States Senate

Representative Rosa DeLauro  
Chair, Labor-HHS Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives

Senator Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcmte  
United States Senate

Representative Tom Cole  
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subcmte  
U.S. House of Representatives

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

As the House and Senate continues work on a fiscal year 2022 omnibus Appropriations bill to meet the February 18 deadline, United for Medical Research (UMR) urges your continued steadfast support for biomedical research by including an increase of at least a \$3 billion to the base budget of the National Institutes of Health.

While strong investments in NIH by Congress over the past several years helped generate great success with COVID-19 vaccines, the pandemic has caused major disruptions within the research community. In fact, at a Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee hearing last year, NIH Director Francis Collins said, “We’re going to have a really big challenge getting ourselves back into the place we were before this happened.”

This challenge is why passing fiscal year 2022 Labor-HHS appropriations for NIH is so critical for our country. A continuing resolution for the remainder of the fiscal year would set back America’s biomedical research – and its researchers – too far. It would jeopardize promising research on some of our most deadly diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer’s and ALS, as well as essential research on child health and development.

A continuing resolution for fiscal year 2022 would also further erode our global standing. While NIH still drives medical innovation world-wide, the United States’ leadership is under serious threat by growing competition from countries such as China, South Korea, Germany, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. In fact, China’s funding for its research has been on such an upward trajectory that it’s expected to exceed that of the U.S. very soon. Moreover, China now has more researchers than we do.

By ensuring a strong and sustainable level of funding for NIH over the long term, we will be able to fund more grants and ensure that the most brilliant minds in science see a long career in biomedical research here in America.

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Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Washington University in St. Louis

Thank you for your long-standing leadership in making NIH an unparalleled success, and for pushing for a strong increase to its base budget within the fiscal year 2022 omnibus appropriations bill. UMR is eager to help your efforts in any way.

Sincerely,

Christopher Austin  
Associate Director, Federal Affairs, Johns Hopkins University & Medicine  
President, United for Medical Research

Lizbet Boroughs  
Associate Vice President for Federal Relations, Association of American Universities  
Treasurer, United for Medical Research

Caitlin M. Leach  
Director of Federal Relations, Northwestern University  
Secretary, United for Medical Research

Rachel Conant  
Vice President, Federal Affairs, Alzheimer's Association  
Board Member, United for Medical Research

Rita Livadas  
Director, Global Public Health, Life Sciences, BD  
Board Member, United for Medical Research