



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

July 11, 2017

The Honorable Charlie Dent
2082 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dent:

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, a coalition of over 300 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, dedicated to enhancing the federal investment in biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), writes to express our deep appreciation for your support for a bicameral, bipartisan agreement to stop sequestration and raise the spending caps for fiscal year (FY) 2018. Without an increase in the nondefense discretionary (NDD) spending cap, funding for critical federal agencies like the NIH could face significant hurdles to achieving scientific innovation and progress in biomedical research.

We are thankful for recent increases to NIH funding, as continued and timely progress in biomedical research relies on robust, predictable support for the agency. Ensuring a steady pipeline of basic research discoveries and sustaining the translational efforts necessary to improve the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease requires a sustained investment in NIH. Yet, impractical budget caps threaten to disrupt the momentum of recent years.

Our country still has the most impressive medical research capacity in the world, but that capacity simply cannot weather repeated blows like sequestration cuts, which jeopardize our competitive edge in an increasingly innovation-based global marketplace. Our nation is a leader in medical research because of Congress's bipartisan recognition of NIH's critical role. To maintain our leadership, we must reaffirm this commitment to provide NIH the support needed to maintain our competitive edge.

We respectfully urge Congress and the Administration to work together on a responsible FY 2018 budget that continues the nation's investment in medical research and protects the health of the American people. As with previous bipartisan budget agreements, any relief provided to the Department of Defense must be met with at least equal relief for NDD as both are equally critical in ensuring the security of our nation.

Thank you for your continued support, and for sending a clear message that Congress and the President must begin work now to develop a bipartisan agreement on workable spending levels for FY 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tannaz Rasouli'.

Tannaz Rasouli
Executive Director

**Similar letters sent to Reps. Stefanik, Upton, Kinzinger, Curbelo, Katko, Reed, Costello, Meehan, Fortenberry, Lance, Ros-Lehtinen, Valadao, Fitzpatrick, LoBiondo, Collins, Thompson, Joyce, Comstock, and Donovan.*