

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the House continues crafting appropriations legislation before the current continuing resolution expires on December 11, 2015, we write to express our strong support for increasing the funding provided to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In any forthcoming appropriations legislation for FY 2016, we urge you to work with your colleagues in the Senate to ensure NIH receives an annual funding level of at least \$32 billion, equal to the level approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee, in order to maintain America's role as a global leader in biomedical research and ground-breaking medical discoveries.

We are concerned that, over the last 12 years, the federal government's contributions toward basic research at NIH have consistently failed to keep pace with inflation. By failing to at least hold NIH funding constant with other rising costs, Congress has allowed the agency's purchasing power to diminish by more than 20 percent since 2003. Indiscriminate budget cuts imposed on the agency during sequestration only further exacerbated this trend, reducing NIH's budget by an additional 5 percent in FY 2013. As the growth in other countries' investments in medical research continues to far outpace those made here in the U.S., it is more critical than ever that we act to reverse this trend.


Insufficient funding for NIH has a serious, wide-ranging impact on our nation's health and our capacity for medical innovation in the 21st century. If we are serious about breaking new ground in our understanding of complex diseases like Alzheimer's and cancer, and if we hope to accelerate the speed with which new cures, treatments and vaccines are developed, then it's absolutely essential that we increase funding for medical research at NIH. Particularly given the significant investments in NIH approved earlier this year by both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, we feel strongly that now is the time to commit to our nation's long-term health and prosperity.


While we understand the difficult fiscal challenges you face, we urge you to prioritize the important role that NIH plays in biomedical research and economic growth by working to fund

the agency at an annual level of at least \$32 billion. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which will make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of Americans.

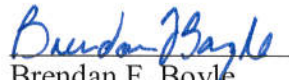
Sincerely,


Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

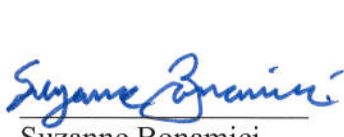

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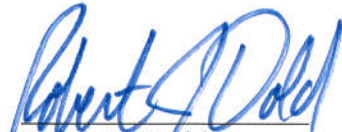

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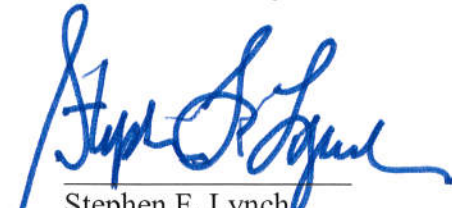

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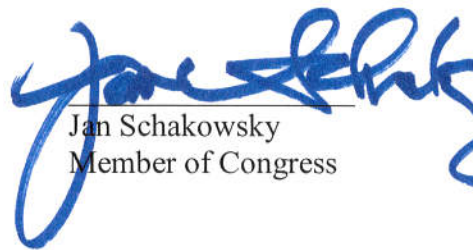

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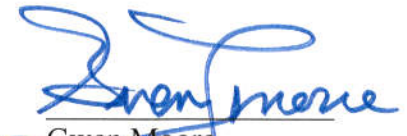

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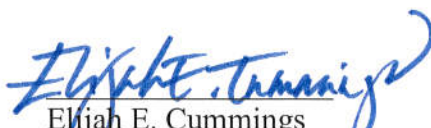

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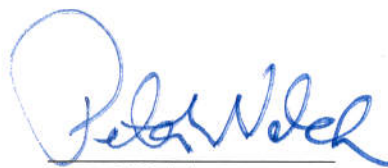

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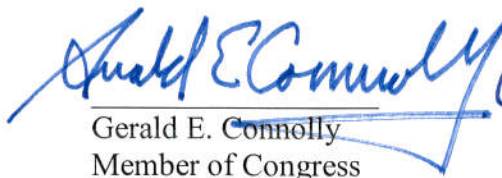

Corrine Brown
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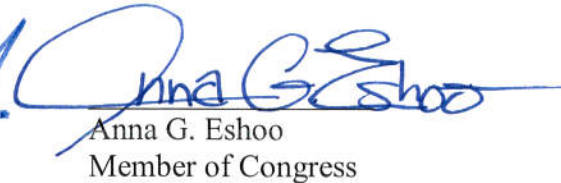

Seth Moulton
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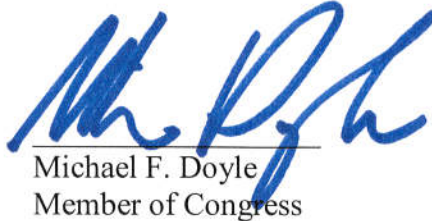
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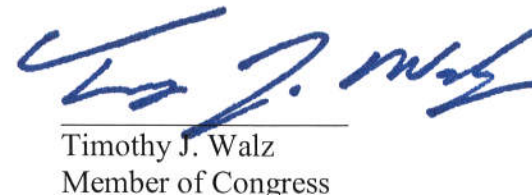
Lois Frankel
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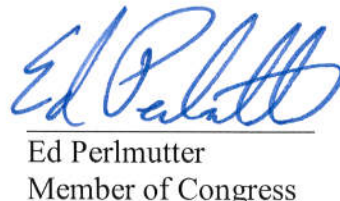
Doris O. Matsui
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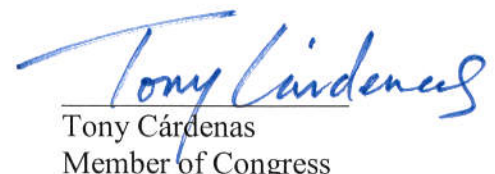
Timothy J. Walz
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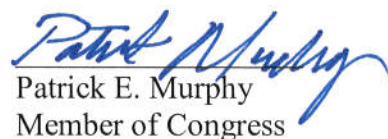
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



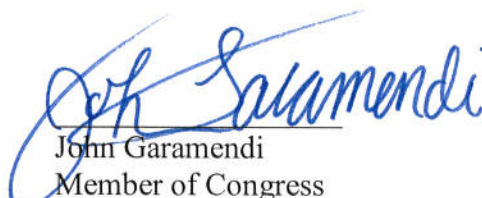
Ed Perlmutter
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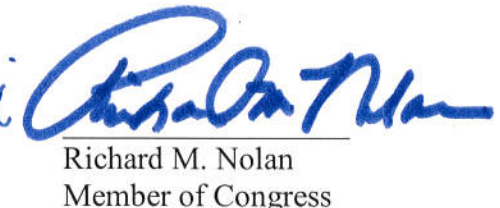
Tony Cárdenas
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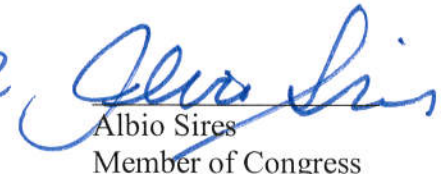
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Alan Lowenthal
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Albio Sires
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Filemon Vela
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Brian Higgins
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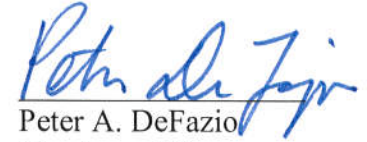
John Lewis
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Kathy Castor
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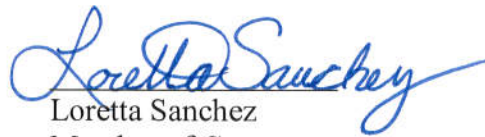
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



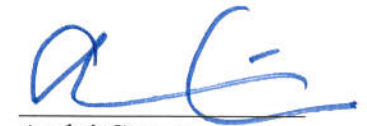
Peter A. DeFazio
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Keith Ellison
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Loretta Sanchez
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André Carson
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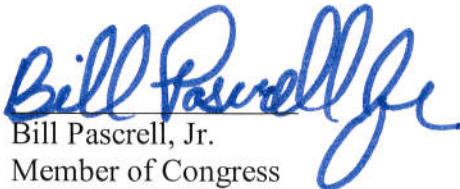
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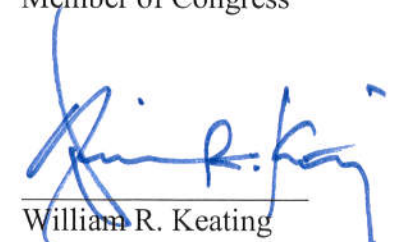
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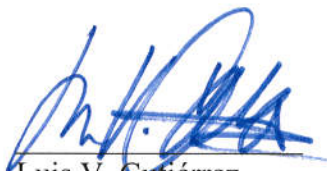

Eric Swalwell
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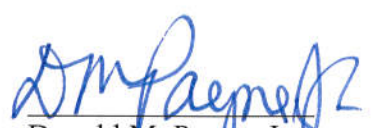

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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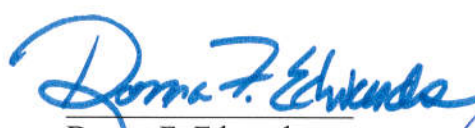

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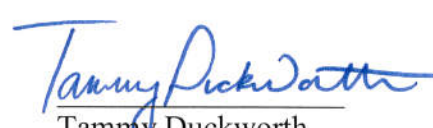

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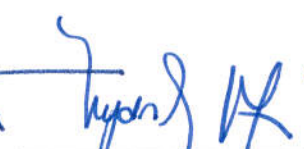

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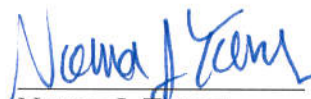

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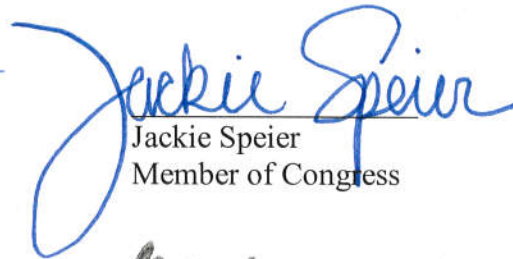

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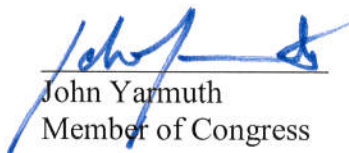

Norma J. Torres
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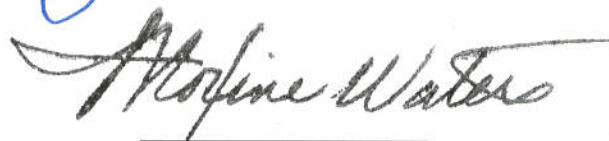

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Bill Foster
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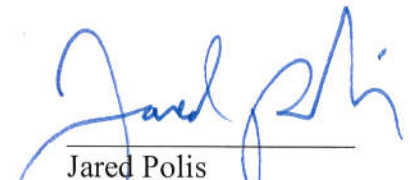

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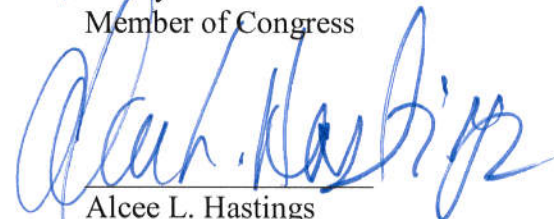

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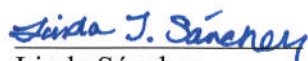

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CC: Hon. Tom Cole, Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chair
Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member