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

David B. McKinley
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Mark Takai
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Kathy Cast  
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Michael G. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

Robert C. “Bobby” Scott  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Brad Ashford  
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Tom Marino  
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Peter T. King  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Tim Himes  
Member of Congress