

October 30, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker:

The undersigned organizations, which represent more than 230 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions, and industry organizations, strongly urge your support for the inclusion of an additional \$1.9 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the economic recovery package currently being developed.

Recognizing the challenges facing NIH as a result of six years of funding below the rate of inflation, this proposal will provide immediate funding to support more than 5,000 additional competitively awarded research grants to help find cures for many devastating diseases.

NIH supports groundbreaking research that results in new preventive, therapeutic, and diagnostic measures to improve the health and quality of life for all Americans. In addition, these advances also contribute to the economic strength of the nation by creating skilled jobs, new products, and improved technologies. The medical schools, teaching hospitals, universities, and research institutes where this research takes place are among the largest employers in their respective communities.

According to a study released in June 2008 by Families USA, on average, in fiscal year 2007, every dollar of NIH funding generated more than twice as much in state economic output. This means an overall investment of \$22.846 billion from NIH generated a total of \$50.537 billion in new state business activity in the form of increased output of goods and services. This same study revealed that in FY 2007 NIH grants and contracts created and supported more than 350,000 jobs that generated wages in excess of \$18 billion in the 50 states. The average wage associated with the jobs created was \$52,000. We must invest now in the NIH to maximize the benefits of scientific opportunity for our nation's fiscal as well as physical health.

Since FY 2003, NIH has lost more than 14 percent of its purchasing power due to federal funding lagging behind the rate of biomedical inflation. The agency's current budget path hinders the scientific discovery that drives the search for new and better treatments and undermines the nation's leadership in medical research. Approval of the additional funding in the forthcoming economic recovery package would be an important step towards reversing NIH's current funding trend and setting it on a new course, giving patients, their families and researchers renewed hope for the future.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
Academy of Radiology Research
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
AdMeTech
Administrators of Internal Medicine
Agfa HealthCare
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC)
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
Alzheimer's Association
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Neurology Professional Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association for Women Radiologists
The American Association of Anatomists
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Immunologists
The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
The American Brain Coalition
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
The American College of Clinical Pharmacology
American College of Preventive Medicine
The American College of Radiology (ACR)
American Dental Education Association (ADEA)
American Diabetes Association
American Foundation for the Blind
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association
The American Physiological Society
Americans for Medical Progress
American Roentgen Ray Society
American Social Health Association
American Society for Addiction Medicine
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
The American Society for Cell Biology
The American Society for Clinical Investigation
The American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
The American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO)
The American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Emergency Radiology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
American Society of Transplantation
The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)
American Sociological Association
The American Thoracic Society
American Tinnitus Association (ATA)
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Arizona State University
Arthritis Foundation
The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies
Association for Clinical Research Training
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences, Inc.
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
The Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of Specialty Professors
Association of University Centers on Disabilities

American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
Autism Society of America
Baylor College of Medicine
Biophysical Society
Biotechnology Industry Organization
Boston University Medical Campus
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Brown University
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Center for Emerging Technologies (CET)
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Foundation
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for the Advancement of Health Through Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research (CIBR)
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Coalition to Protect Research
The College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Columbia University Medical Center
Columbia University TeenScreen Program
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Research Education and Support (CARES) Foundation, Inc.
The Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS)
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Duke University Medical Center
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
EPSCoR/IDeA Foundation
Emory University
The Endocrine Society
Families USA Global Health Initiative
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
First Candle/SIDS Alliance
Friends of Cancer Research
Friends of NICHD
Fujifilm Medical Systems USA
Gamma Medica-Ideas, Inc
The Gerontological Society of America
Harlem United

Harvard University
The Heart Rhythm Society
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis Foundation International
The HIV Medicine Association
Indiana University
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers Association
The International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (ICW)
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
The International Society for Computational Biology
Invitrogen Corporation
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Johns Hopkins Institutions
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
LA Gay & Lesbian Center
Legal Action Center
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Lupus Research Institute
March of Dimes Foundation
Massachusetts General Hospital
Medical College of Wisconsin
Medical Library Association
Morehouse School of Medicine
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR)
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Association for Children of Alcoholics
The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors
National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs
National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)
The National Coalition for Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases
National Health Council
National Kidney Foundation
National Marfan Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Primate Research Centers
National Psoriasis Foundation
NephCure Foundation
Neurofibromatosis, Inc.
New York-Presbyterian Hospital
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
The NYU School of Medicine
The Ohio State University Medical Center

Oregon Health & Science University
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
The Paget Foundation
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Parkinson's Action Network
Penn State College of Medicine
Population Association of America and the Association of Population Centers
The Preeclampsia Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Reed Elsevier Inc.
Research!America
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Scleroderma Foundation
Seattle Children's Research Institute
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Research in Child Development
The Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Computed Body Tomography and Magnetic Resonance
Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncologists
Society of Thoracic Radiology
The Society of Toxicology
Society of Uroradiology
Spina Bifida Association
State Associations of Addiction Services
Stony Brook University Medical Center
SUNY Upstate Medical University
The Teratology Society and Environmental Mutagen Society
Therapeutic Communities of America
Toshiba Medical Research Institute USA, Inc
Treatment Action Group
Unite 2 Fight Paralysis
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
University of California, San Diego
University of Maryland, Baltimore
The University of Minnesota Medical School
The University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of Rochester Medical Center
The University of Texas System
University of Washington

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
Weill Cornell Medical College
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
Yale School of Medicine