Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2018

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

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

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role played by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in better health outcomes, job creation, education, and economic growth, we respectfully request the program level for the agency in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 to reflect the rising costs of biomedical research, should be at least $38.4 billion. Therefore, we respectfully request that the NIH receives an increase of at least $2.2 billion above the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 funding level. At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs as well as our international leadership in biomedical research.

Providing this amount to the NIH would maintain the level trajectory of $2 billion increases for the NIH each year, accounts for biomedical inflation, and ensures that the Innovation Accounts provided through the 21st Century Cures Act supplement the agency's base budget through dedicated funding to specific programs, as intended. Similarly, the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2018 appropriately recognized the importance of investments in NIH, and we note to the Committee that additional targeted funding resulting from the BBA should supplement the investment in NIH's base budget.

Over the past two decades, our nation's investment in NIH has often fallen short of what is needed to meet our research needs and, despite recent progress, past Congressional appropriations for our nation's greatest research institution have failed to keep pace with inflation. We can already see the wide-ranging impact this lag has had, with dramatically lower grant application success rates and less money available for new researchers seeking their first

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

grant. If we do not continue the recent momentum of adequate budget growth, we risk forcing students who are receiving a world-class education at American universities to graduate and seek research positions in China, India, or other nations that emphasize investment in biomedical research.

The critical investments we make in biomedical research are our nation's best hope in finding cures and treatments of diseases that affect millions of Americans. The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone but has led to major achievements in our understanding of rare diseases and disorders, as well as historically prevalent diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer and Parkinson's.

In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports over 400,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, to benefit manufacturers and suppliers in every state in America.

In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH as a job creator, driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs. We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least $38.4 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2019. Please contact Charlie Arnowitz (Rep. Carson) with any further questions.

Sincerely,

David B. McKinley, P.E.

Susan A. Davis

André Carson

Peter T. King

Stacey E. Plaskett

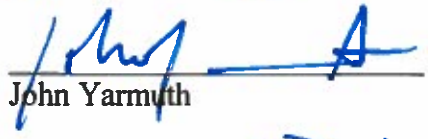
Rick Larsen

Patrick Meehan

Alan Lowenthal

Joseph Crowley

Donald M. Payne, Jr.



John Yarmuth

Eliot L. Engel

A. Donald McEachin

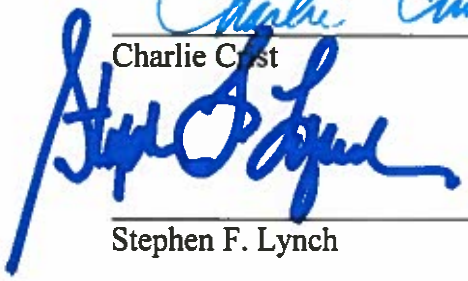
Al Green

Colleen Hanabusa

Chellie Pingree

Charlie Crist

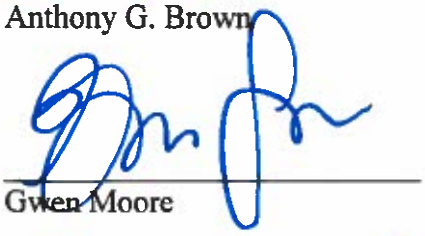
Earl Blumenauer



Stephen F. Lynch

Anthony G. Brown

Thomas R. Suozzi



Gwen Moore

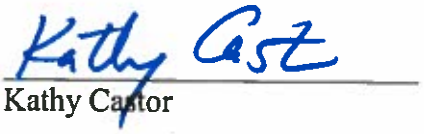
Brian Fitzpatrick

Carlos Curbelo

Carlos Curbelo

Steve Cohen

Lee Zeldin


Kathy Castor

Danny K. Davis

Mike Thompson

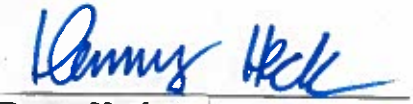
Glenn 'GT' Thompson

Andy Barr

Terri A. Sewell

Ben Ray Luján

John Katko

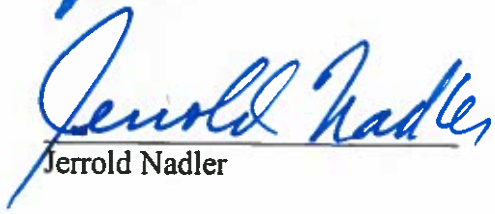

Denny Heck

Kevin Cramer

Peter A. DeFazio

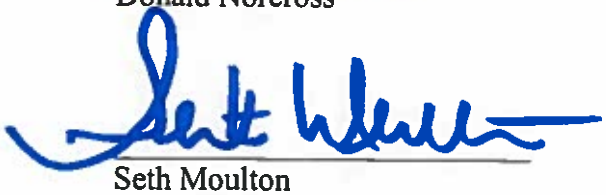
Juan Vargas

Mark DeSaulnier

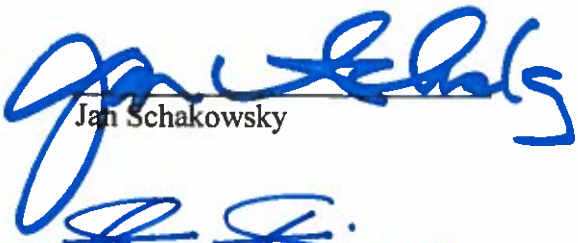

Jerrold Nadler

Donald Norcross

Bonnie Watson Coleman


Seth Moulton

Albio Sires


Jan Schakowsky

Gene Green

Steve Stivers

David N. Cicilline

Rod Blum

Doris Matsui

Rodney Davis

Elise M. Stefanik

Christopher H. Smith

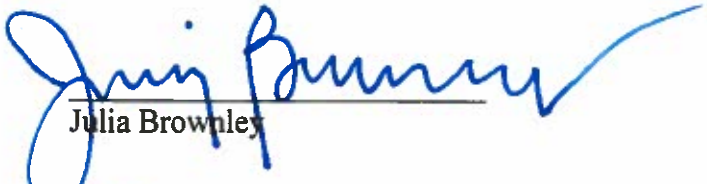
Linda T. Sánchez

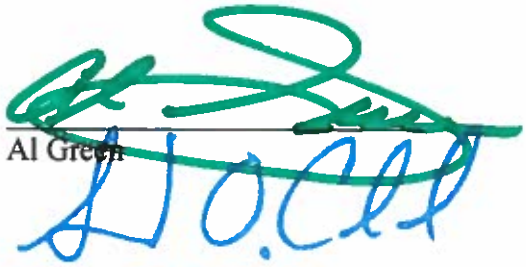
Rep. Grace F. Napolitano

Brian Higgins

Louise M. Slaughter

Ryan A. Costello


Julia Brownley


Al Green

Salud O. Carbajal

Paul D. Tonko

Scott Peters

Gerald E. Connolly

Alcee L. Hastings

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Robert A. Brady

Timothy J. Walz

John P. Sarbanes

Michael T. McCaul

Tom Marino

Ted Deutch

Leonard Lance

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

James R. Langevin

Daniel W. Lipinski

David E. Price

Dina Titus

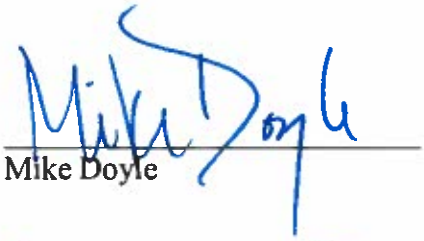
Richard M. Nolan

Kurt Schrader

Adam B. Schiff

Yvette D. Clarke

Mike Coffman


Mike Doyle

Suzanne Bonamici

Joseph P. Kennedy, III

Daniel T. Kildee

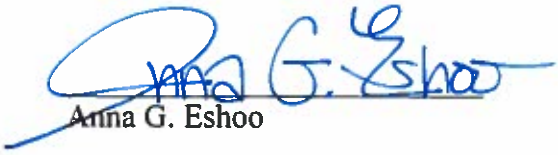
Michelle Lujan Grisham

Debbie Dingell

Claudia Tenney

Elizabeth H. Esty

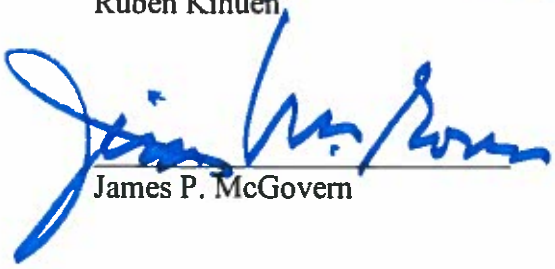
Ann Wagner


Anna G. Eshoo

Raja Krishnamoorthi

Ruben Kihuen

David Scott


James P. McGovern

Jacky Rosen

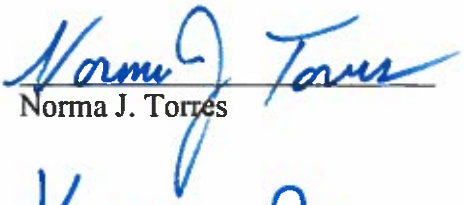
A. Donald McEachin

Mark Takano

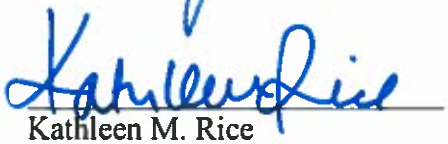
John J. Faso

Rep. Steve Knight

Mike Gallagher


Norma J. Torres

Jim Cooper


Kathleen M. Rice

Dwight Evans

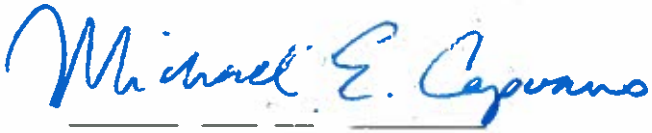
Bill Foster

Adriano Espaillat

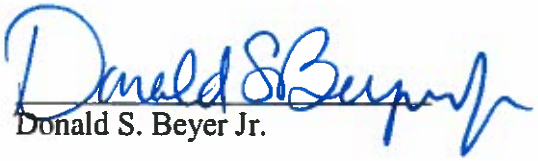
Bradley S. Schneider

Ron Kind

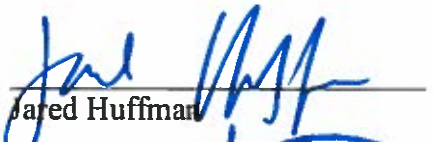
Sean Patrick Maloney


Michael E. Capuano

Zoe Lofgren

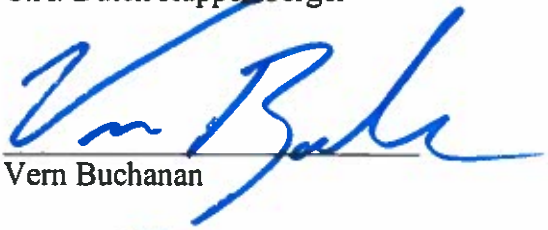

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Stephanie Murphy


Jared Huffman

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Emanuel Cleaver, II


Vern Buchanan

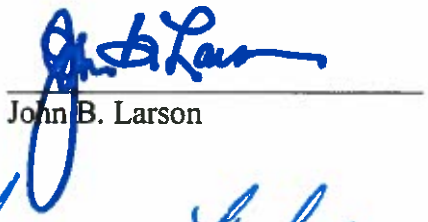
Collin C. Peterson

John Garamendi

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Sean Patrick Maloney

Chris Collins



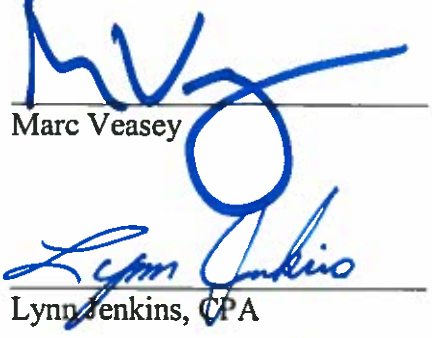
John B. Larson

Joaquin Castro

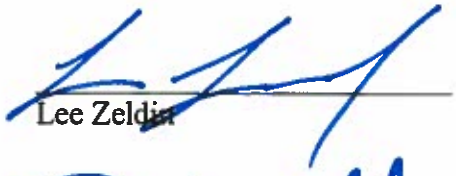
Brenda L. Lawrence

James A. Himes

Ed Perlmutter

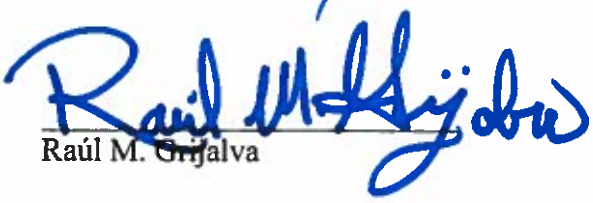


Marc Veasey



Lee Zeldin

Lynn Jenkins, CPA



Raúl M. Grijalva

Sander M. Levin

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Scott Peters

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

John K. Delaney

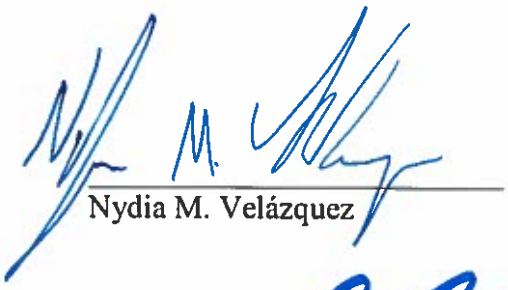
Tony Cárdenas

Lois Frankel

Cheri Bustos

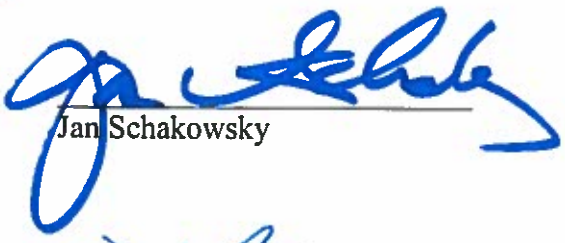
Brendan F. Boyle

Marcia L. Fudge



Nydia M. Velázquez

Joe Courtney



Jan Schakowsky

Carolyn B. Maloney

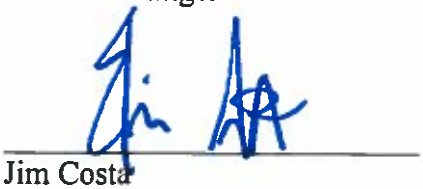
Jackie Speier

Pete Sessions

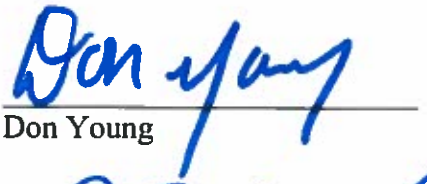
Judy Chu

Adam Kinzinger

Ted Deutch



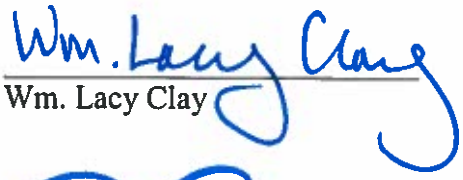
Jim Costa



Don Young

Vicky Hartzler

G. K. Butterfield



Wm. Lacy Clay

Lou Barletta

Peter Roskam

Frank D. Lucas

Pete Olson

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Cedric L. Richmond

Eric Swalwell

Val Butler Demings

Filemon Vela

Jamie Raskin

Tom MacArthur

Ann McLane Kuster

Joyce Beatty

Martha McSally

Richard E. Neal

Ted W. Lieu

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

Jack Bergman

Ro Khanna

Mike Gallagher

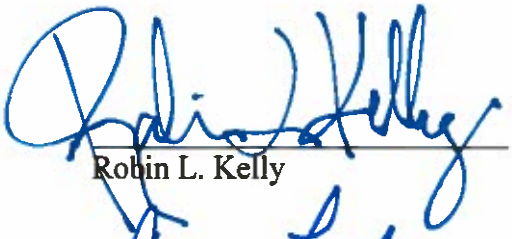
Kyrsten Sinema

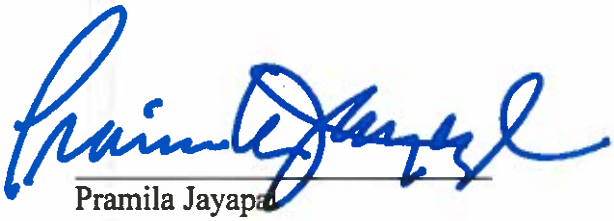
Jimmy Gomez

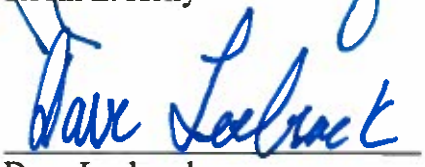
Ami Bera, M.D.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Raul Ruiz


Robin L. Kelly


Pramila Jayapal


Dave Loebsack

Gus M. Bilirakis

Bill Johnson

Keith J. Rothfus

David Rouzer

Bruce Poliquin

Beto O'Rourke

Rick W. Allen

Lisa Blunt Rochester

Suzan DelBene

Adam Smith

Peter Welch

Al Lawson

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.

Richard Hudson

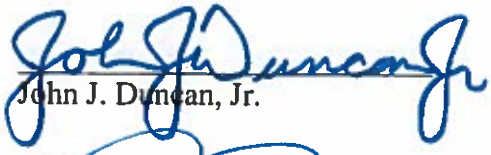
Mike Bost

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

Mark Meadows

Mark Meadows

Steve Chabot


John J. Duncan, Jr.

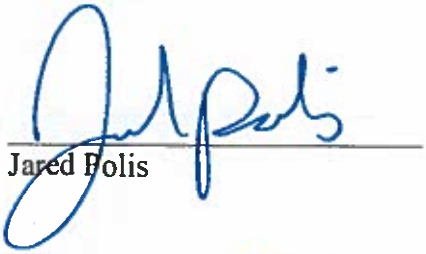
Rob Woodall

Lloyd Smucker

Jerry McNerney

Brad Sherman

Will Hurd


Jared Polis

Dana Rohrabacher

Tulsi Gabbard

William R. Keating

Jimmy Panetta

J. Luis Correa

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott