

United for Medical Research



April 29, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
United States Senate

Dear Senators Alexander and Murray:

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), we are writing to thank you for your unwavering commitment to providing increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the HELP Committee's biomedical innovation package and to urge you to find a path forward quickly that will allow this legislation to be considered by the full Senate. UMR is a coalition of the nation's leading scientific research institutions and industries, and health and patient advocate member organizations seeking steady and sustainable growth in the NIH budget over the long term.

Both strong annual appropriations and mandatory, short-term surge funding are required if the NIH is to catch up from more than a decade of underfunding and keep up with public health needs and the opportunities presented by biomedical research. We are excited by the growing bipartisan consensus – in both the House and the Senate – that a mandatory, multi-year investment in the NIH is necessary to address years of underfunding. We urge you to seize this momentum and bring the HELP Committee legislation including mandatory funding for NIH to the Senate floor in time for its passage this year.

Research funded by the NIH saves lives, improves the health of all Americans, and supports \$60 billion annually in economic activity. It is an engine for both medical and economic progress.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you and Senate leadership to ensure passage of legislation that addresses the past underfunding of the NIH and puts the world's premier health research agency on a more sustainable growth path going forward.

Sincerely,

David Pugach
Director, Federal Relations
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc.
President, United for Medical Research

Tim Fenton
Vice President, Global Government Relations
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Treasurer, United for Medical Research

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