

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

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

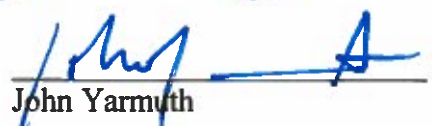

Rick Larsen


Patrick Meehan


Alan Lowenthal

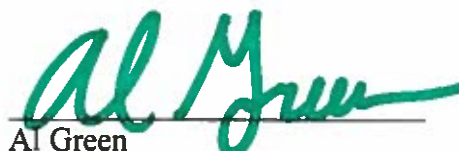

Joseph Crowley

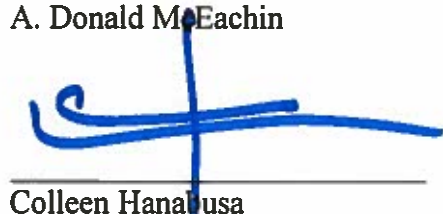

Donald M. Payne, Jr.


John Yarmuth


Eliot L. Engel


A. Donald McEachin

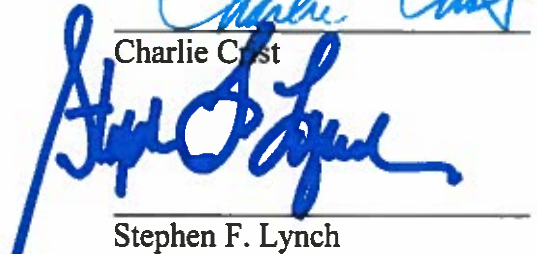

Al Green


Colleen Hanabusa


Chellie Pingree

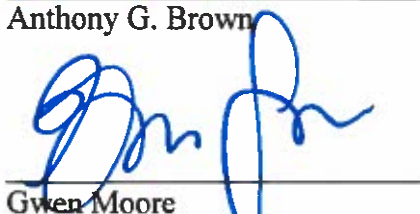

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Carlos Curbelo

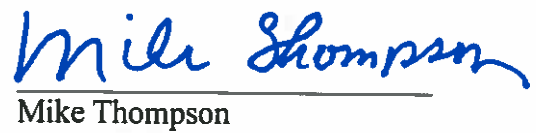

Carlos Curbelo


Steve Cohen


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Kathy Castor


Danny K. Davis


Mike Thompson

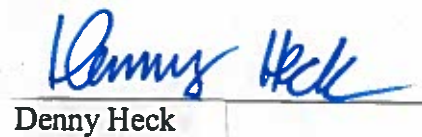

Glenn 'GT' Thompson


Andy Barr


Terri A. Sewell


Ben Ray Lujan


John Katko

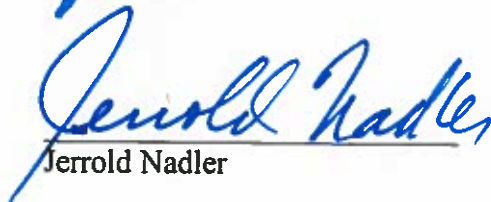

Denny Heck


Kevin Cramer


Peter A. DeFazio

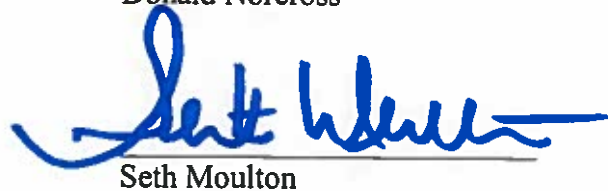

Juan Vargas


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Jerrold Nadler


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Seth Moulton


Albio Sires


Gene Green


David N. Cicilline

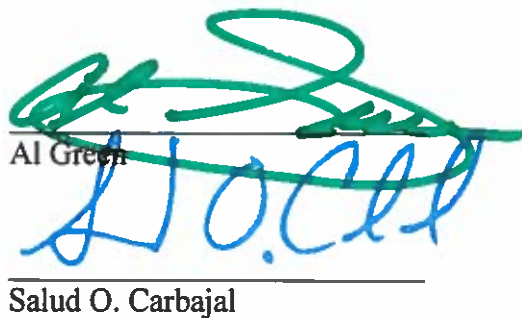

Doris Matsui

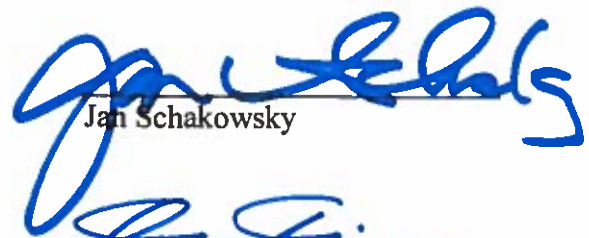

Elise M. Stefanik


Linda T. Sánchez


Brian Higgins


Ryan A. Costello


Salud O. Carbajal


Jan Schakowsky

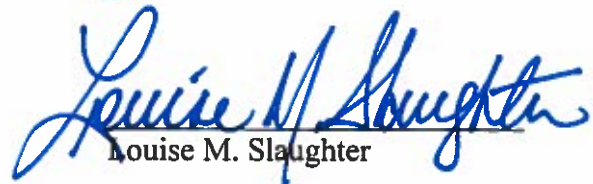

Steve Stivers


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Rodney Davis


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Paul D. Tonko


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Gerald E. Connolly


Eleanor Holmes Norton


Timothy J. Walz


Michael T. McCaul


Ted Deutch

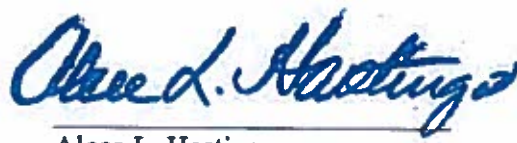

Madeleine Z. Bordallo


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Dina Titus


Kurt Schrader


Yvette D. Clarke


Alcee L. Hastings


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Tom Marino

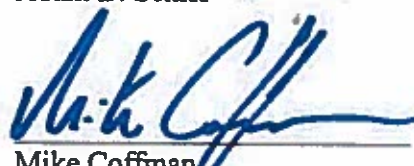

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Claudia Tenney


Ann Wagner


Raja Krishnamoorthi


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Jacky Rosen


Mark Takano


Rep. Steve Knight

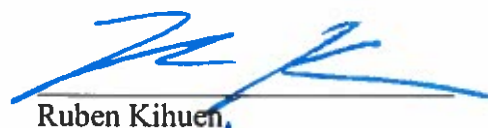

Suzanne Bonamici

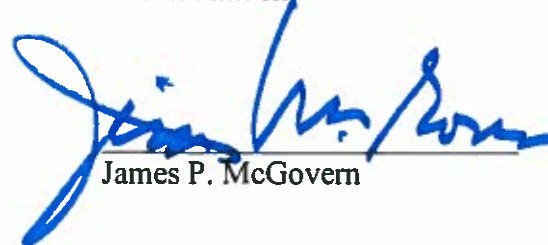

Daniel T. Kildee


Debbie Dingell


Elizabeth H. Esty


Anna G. Eshoo

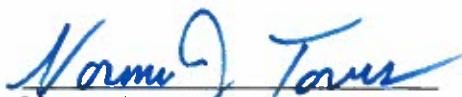

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Norma J. Torres


Jim Cooper


Kathleen M. Rice


Dwight Evans


Bill Foster


Adriano Espaillat

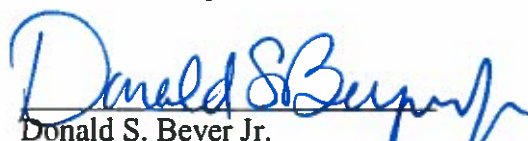

Bradley S. Schneider


Ron Kind


Sean Patrick Maloney


Michael E. Capuano


Zoe Lofgren

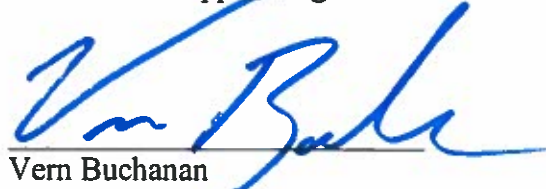

Donald S. Beyer Jr.


Stephanie Murphy


Jared Huffman


C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger


Emanuel Cleaver, II


Vern Buchanan


Collin C. Peterson


John Garamendi


Eddie Bernice Johnson



Sean Patrick Maloney



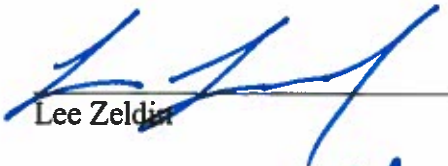
John B. Larson



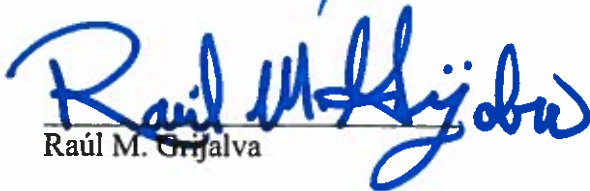
Brenda L. Lawrence



Ed Perlmutter



Lee Zeldin



Raúl M. Grijalva



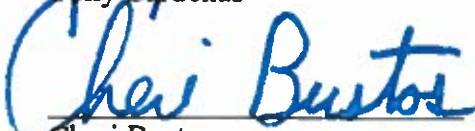
Nanette Diaz Barragan



Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Tony Cardenas



Cheri Bustos



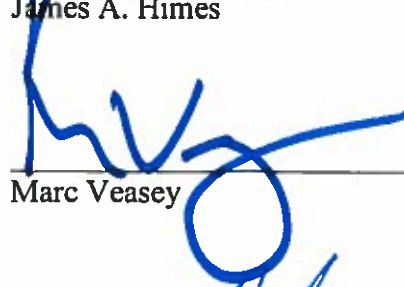
Chris Collins



Joaquin Castro



James A. Himes



Marc Veasey



Lynn Jenkins, CPA



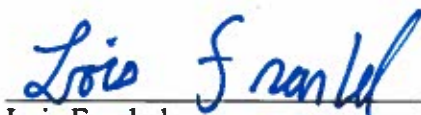
Sander M. Levin



Scott Peters



John K. Delaney



Lois Frankel



Brendan F. Boyle



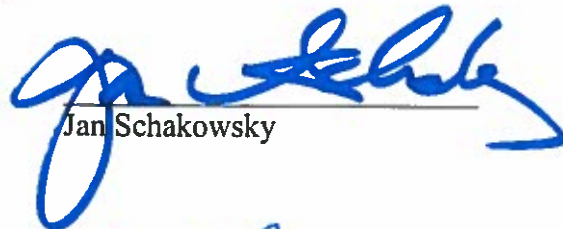
Marcia L. Fudge



Nydia M. Velázquez



Joe Courtney



Jan Schakowsky



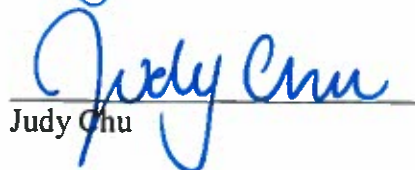
Carolyn B. Maloney



Jackie Speier



Pete Sessions



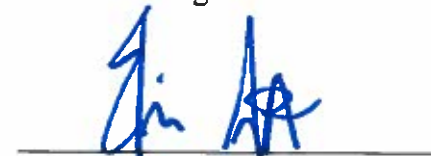
Judy Chu



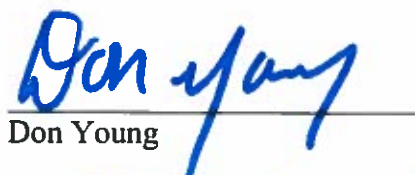
Adam Kinzinger



Ted Deutch



Jim Costa



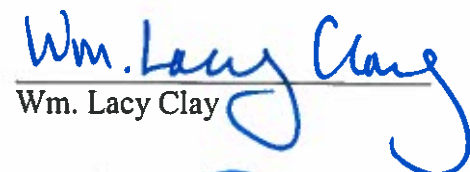
Don Young



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



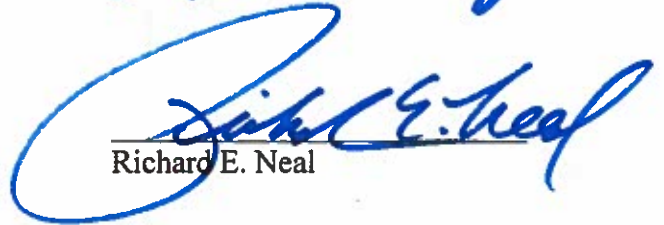
Ann McLane Kuster



Joyce Beatty



Martha McSally



Richard E. Neal



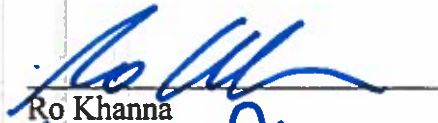
Ted W. Lieu



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.



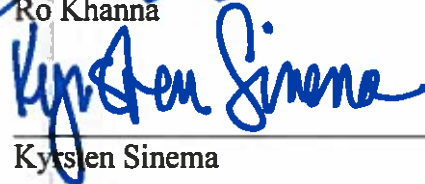
Jack Bergman



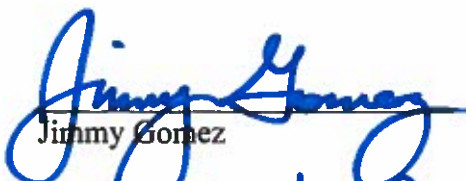
Ro Khanna



Mike Gallagher



Kyrsten Sinema



Jimmy Gomez



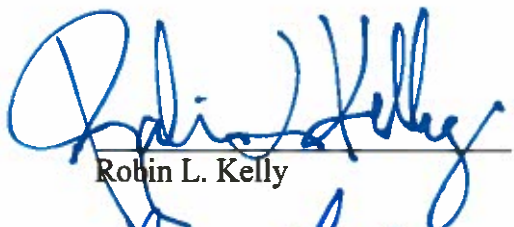
Ami Bera, M.D.



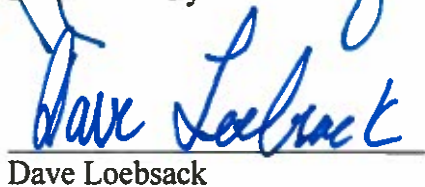
Cathy McMorris Rodgers



Raul Ruiz



Robin L. Kelly



Dave Loebsack



Bill Johnson



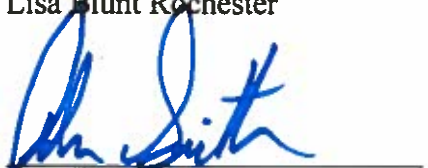
David Rouzer



Beto O'Rourke



Lisa Blunt Rochester



Adam Smith



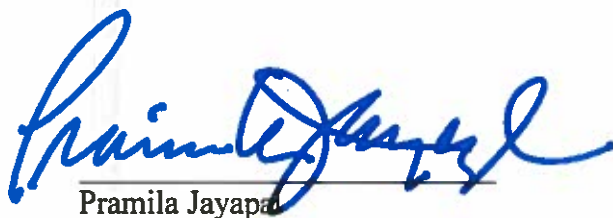
Al Lawson



Richard Hudson



Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter



Pramila Jayapal



Gus M. Bilirakis



Keith J. Rothfus



Bruce Poliquin



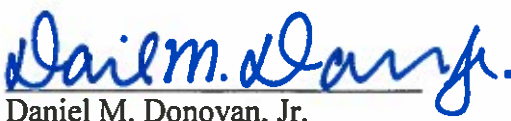
Rick W. Allen



Suzan DelBene



Peter Welch



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.



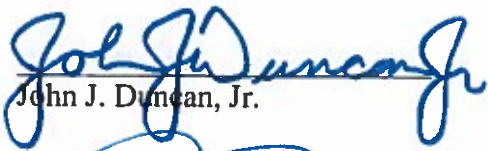
Mike Bost



Mark Meadows


Mark Meadows


Steve Chabot


John J. Duncan, Jr.

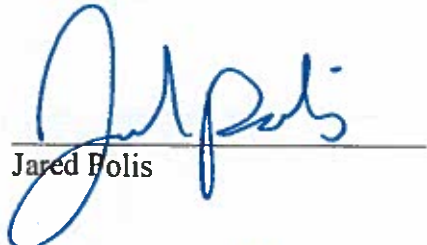

Rob Woodall


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