



The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

April 17, 2015

Dear Budget Conferee:

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, a coalition of more than 200 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, I urge you to include in the final conference agreement on the FY 2016 budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 27) the Moran amendment (Senate Amendment No. 1099 to S.Con.Res. 11). The Moran amendment creates a deficit neutral reserve fund to support investment in biomedical research and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This bipartisan amendment was co-sponsored by 33 Senators and was approved by unanimous consent.

The Ad Hoc Group is deeply grateful to Congress for its long-standing and bipartisan leadership in support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We continue to believe that science and innovation are essential if we are to continue to improve our nation's health, sustain our leadership in medical research, and remain competitive in today's global information and innovation-based economy.

However, despite the increases provided in each of the past two fiscal years, the NIH budget remains lower than it was in FY 2012 in actual dollars. This continued erosion of the NIH budget squanders invaluable scientific opportunities, discourages young scientists, jeopardizes our economic future, and threatens medical progress and continued improvements in our nation's health.


NIH is the world's premier supporter of merit-reviewed, investigator-initiated basic research. This fundamental understanding of how disease works and insight into the cellular, molecular, and genetic processes underlying life itself underpin our ability to conquer devastating illnesses. Ensuring a steady pipeline of basic research discoveries and sustaining the translational efforts necessary to improve the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease requires a sustained investment in NIH.

Our country still has the most robust medical research capacity in the world, but that capacity simply cannot weather repeated blows such as persistent below-inflation funding levels and sequestration cuts, which jeopardize our competitive edge in an increasingly innovation-based global marketplace.

Other countries have recognized the critical role that biomedical science plays in innovation and economic growth and have significantly increased their investment in biomedical science. This shift in funding is creating an innovation deficit in the U.S. and raises the concern that talented medical researchers from all over the world, who once flocked to the U.S. for training and stayed to contribute to our innovation-driven economy, are now returning to better opportunities in their home countries. We cannot afford to lose that intellectual capacity, much less the jobs and industries fueled by medical research. The U.S. has been the global leader in medical research because of Congress's bipartisan recognition of NIH's critical role. To maintain our dominance, we must reaffirm this commitment to provide NIH the funds needed to maintain our competitive edge.

The Ad Hoc Group's members recognize the tremendous challenges facing our nation's economy and acknowledge the difficult decisions that must be made to restore our country's fiscal health. Nevertheless, we believe strongly that increasing NIH funding is an essential part of the solution to the nation's economic restoration. The Moran amendment is a strong, bipartisan commitment to medical research and ensuring the health and well-being of the American people and our economy. We urge you to include it in the final budget resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David B. Moore
Executive Director