



December 18, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Members Shelby and Lowey:

As a coalition of more than 300 patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research strongly urges you to provide the largest possible 302(b) allocation to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee for FY 2014.

The Ad Hoc Group was pleased to endorse the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2013 as an important first step in restoring order to the federal budget process. Moreover, the compromise holds the potential to restore the harmful sequestration cuts to critical national priorities, including medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

As you know, recent cycles of continuing resolutions (CR) and increasing fiscal pressures have imposed counterproductive hardships and inefficiencies on NIH, institutions, and scientists in planning and conducting life-saving medical research nationwide. Providing a robust allocation for the Labor-HHS spending bill will enable the subcommittee to begin to reinvest in the nation's research enterprise.

The Ad Hoc Group is deeply grateful for your longstanding leadership and support for NIH. As you finalize spending levels for FY 2014, we urge you to provide the largest possible allocation for the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee and to pass a Labor-HHS bill rather than another CR. These actions will help position NIH to capitalize on the scientific opportunity that millions of patients are counting on to lead to a healthier tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David B. Moore'.

David B. Moore
Executive Director