

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

Last year, overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate voted to pass the *21st Century Cures Act* and invest \$4.8 billion to accelerate life-saving research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The progress promised by those investments is threatened by the Trump Administration's requested budget cuts to NIH in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 and FY2018. The White House has proposed slashing NIH research and Institutional Development Award (IDeA) grants by over \$1.2 billion for the remainder of this year. And for next year, they propose further cuts of \$5.8 billion – or roughly 20 percent of NIH's budget.

NIH research saves millions of lives every year making the basic discoveries that allow businesses to develop new treatments, medications, and cures for patients. In FY16, investments in biomedical research directly supported over 379,000 jobs and indirectly supported another 1.62 million Americans working in the bioscience industry, powering \$65 billion in economic growth nationwide. Those investments will be crucial to controlling long-term entitlement costs. Today, 1 out of 3 Medicare dollars is spent on diabetes-related care, and 1 out of 5 Medicare dollars is spent on Alzheimer's related care. Without new research to find cures, these diseases will bankrupt our nation.

NIH research also protects our national security. The White House has proposed cutting NIH's research budget to pay for a new border wall with Mexico, but the recent outbreaks of Ebola and Zika reminded us that diseases know no national borders, especially in the age of pandemics and bioterrorism. We need more NIH research to protect the American people, not less – especially since our global scientific leadership depends on it. China is projected to outspend the U.S. in all research and development by 2020, and they are already investing \$9 billion to become the world leader in genetic testing. Meanwhile, America is experiencing a "brain drain" as the lack of research funding is forcing our brightest young scientists to move overseas to pursue research careers or leave the field altogether.

This is not a partisan issue. Disease isn't Democratic or Republican. Congress voted to reinvest in NIH research because we recognize its remarkable return on investment for the American people, and so we oppose any cuts to the NIH budget in FY17 or FY18. NIH research saves lives, creates job, controls long-term entitlement costs, protects our national security, and advances our global leadership, all while bringing renewed hope to patients and families across the country.

Sincerely,


FRED UPTON
Member of Congress


DIANA DEGETTE
Member of Congress