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| AABB | AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY | GO2 FOUNDATION FOR LUNG CANCER HEALTHYWOMEN | PULMONARY HYPERTENSION ASSOCIATION |
| ADULT CONGENITAL HEART ASSOCIATION | AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY | HEART FAILURE SOCIETY OF AMERICA | RESTLESS LEGS SYNDROME FOUNDATION |
| ALLIANCE FOR AGING RESEARCH | AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY | HEART RHYTHM SOCIETY | SLEEP RESEARCH SOCIETY |
| ALPHA-1 FOUNDATION | AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY | HEART VALVE VOICE US | SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR ANGIOGRAPHY AND INTERVENTIONS |
| AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS | AMERICAN VASCULAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION | HEMOPHILIA FEDERATION OF AMERICA | SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE |
| AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE | ASSOCIATION OF BLACK CARDIOLOGISTS | HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY ASSOCIATION | SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE |
| AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THORACIC SURGERY | CHILD NEUROLOGY SOCIETY | JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION | FOUNDATION FOR SARCOIDOSIS RESEARCH |
| AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SLEEP MEDICINE | CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY FOUNDATION | LAM FOUNDATION | SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR SURGERY |
| AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS | CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS | LYMPHANGIOMATOSIS & GORHAM'S DISEASE ALLIANCE | SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH |
| AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE | CONQUERING CHD | MARFAN FOUNDATION | SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY |
| AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY | COOLEY'S ANEMIA FOUNDATION | MENDELED HEARTS, INC. | SOCIETY OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY |
| AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION | COPD FOUNDATION | MENDELED LITTLE HEARTS | U.S. COPD COALITION |
| AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION | CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION | NATIONAL HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION | WOMEN'S HEART ALLIANCE |
| AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION | DORNEY-KOPPEL FOUNDATION | PROJECT SLEEP | WOMENHEART |
| AMERICAN RED CROSS | | PEDIATRIC & CONGENITAL INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOVASCULAR SOCIETY | |

April 16, 2021

Patty Murray
 Chair
 Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Rosa DeLauro
 Chair
 Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Roy Blunt
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Tom Cole
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Chairs and Ranking Members:

The 58 member organizations of the NHLBI Constituency Group urge you to include in the FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriation bill \$46.11 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$3.94 billion for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

A funding level of this amount would allow the NIH to address critical needs related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including health disparities and long haul COVID syndrome, sustain current activities and invest in promising and critically needed scientific research. An FY 2022 appropriation of \$46.11 billion for the NIH, including \$3.94 billion for NHLBI would permit the NIH to capitalize on its ability to enhance patient health and care, boost economic growth, and promote scientific discovery.

The COVID-19 pandemic persists as a global public health crisis that requires the continued mobilization of scientific research resources to enable us to improve our understanding of the SARS-CoV2 virus, develop new interventions to mitigate life-threatening cardiovascular, respiratory, circadian, and hematological complications of the disease, including long-term complications, and develop new diagnostics and therapeutics, including for high-risk populations.

As COVID-19 vaccines are being rolled out across the U.S., we are still seeing mistrust and disinformation about vaccines among some minority communities. The NHLBI has partnered with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) on the Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) program, which is educating minority communities across eleven states about effective disease prevention practices and working to improve confidence and uptake of COVID vaccines and treatments. Additional funding for NHLBI would support the expansion of this program to more states and epidemiological studies to address the disproportionate impact the coronavirus is having on these populations.

Since 1948, the NHLBI has made important progress in the treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease, respiratory diseases, and blood and sleep disorders. Even with this progress, challenges remain as these conditions continue to account for more than 1 million American deaths each year and cost our nation an estimated \$479 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity.

To continue important advances in research, the NHLBI is investing in prevention programs and new treatments for cardiovascular disease including congenital heart disease, developing novel therapies for lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, cystic and pulmonary fibrosis, improving the treatment of blood disorders such as sickle cell disease and hemophilia, and driving precision medicine that is tailored to individual patient needs through data science.

As the worldwide leader in research on heart, lung, blood, and blood vessel diseases as well as sleep disorders, the NHLBI effectively translates research results to the American public. An FY 2022 appropriation of \$3.94 billion for the NHLBI would allow the Institute to enhance current programs and pursue promising basic, translational, clinical, and prevention research to better diagnose, treat and prevent these diseases.

Please contact Nuala S. Moore with the American Thoracic Society at Nmoore@thoracic.org or John Laughner with the American Heart Association at John.Laughner@heart.org if you have questions or need more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nuala S. Moore
Co-chair
NHLBI Constituency Group



John Laughner
Co-chair
NHLBI Constituency Group