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

February 9, 2022

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:

On behalf of the 61 member organizations of the NHLBI Constituency Group we encourage you to finalize an FY 2022 omnibus appropriation bill and include a robust investment in the National Institutes of Health and at least \$3.94 billion for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). A timely Fiscal Year 2022 appropriation is vital to allow the NHLBI to continue addressing COVID-19 while maintaining progress on mission critical research addressing cardiovascular, respiratory, blood and sleep related research priorities.

Delays in regular annual appropriations funding make it challenging to launch major initiatives and pursue critical scientific opportunities to prevent and develop new treatments for heart, lung, blood and sleep diseases and conditions. This is important because so much is rapidly evolving with respect to our understanding of cardiovascular disease including heart failure and

congenital heart disease, novel therapies under development for lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and asthma, and improved treatment of blood disorders such as sickle cell disease and hemophilia.

The best approach to sustaining incremental progresses in research and discoveries is effective planning made possible by recurring, timely, and continued appropriations. This certainty is critical to scientific advancement. Without regular annual appropriations funding, vital basic, clinical, and translational research opportunities to address critical needs related to COVID-19 and across heart, lung, blood, and sleep, including protection of our most vulnerable populations, are compromised, delayed, or potentially curtailed.

Without sustained annual appropriations, NHLBI will not be able to maintain the momentum associated with its spotlight on the disparate effect that COVID has had on vulnerable communities, to continue with research efforts aimed at identifying the causes of and contributors to health disparities, and develop more effective approaches to effectively address, reduce, and ultimately eliminate them.

Given that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths, NHLBI has also taken a lead role in working with others at NIH to support research to reduce the nation's alarming rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, especially among women of color. Without sustained and timely annual funding, NHLBI's programs focused on improving women's health throughout the lifespan, including initiatives concentrated on maternal health disparities will not keep pace with this epidemic.

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. 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 Valerie Adelson with the American Thoracic Society at vadelson@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,

Valerie Adelson
Co-chair
NHLBI Constituency Group

John Laughner
Co-chair
NHLBI Constituency Group