



February 8, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
US Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chair
US Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
US House Appropriations Committee &
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
US House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

The 34 undersigned patient, provider, healthcare, and research organizations who are members of the Friends of the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), write to urge the prompt passage of final Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations bills with a robust increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the work of the NIDDK.

As a deal on an omnibus has not yet been reached, we are concerned that additional continuing resolutions (CRs) beyond the February 18 deadline would further destabilize the biomedical research enterprise, which is already suffering due to COVID-19 induced disruptions. Because of the uncertainty of a CR, NIH will be unable to fully commit anticipated resources to multi-year grants, resulting in delays in funding for extremely competitive grants and high-impact new projects. These delays affect patients waiting for new treatments and cures, researchers, lab staff, graduate students and postdocs.

As members of the NIDDK research community, we also want to call your attention to the innovative work that is underway and at stake at this Institute. We encourage you to review the recent publication: [NIDDK: Recent Advances and Emerging Opportunities \(2022\)](#), which highlights important research advances published by NIDDK-funded scientists and their colleagues in FY 2021. It also contains “Personal Perspectives” of people who have given time and effort to participate in NIDDK-sponsored clinical research. The two-page [Executive Summary](#), which provides a snapshot of the advances and other research activities detailed in the annual report, may be a particularly helpful resource to you.

Our nation’s progress against COVID-19 – and every other health threat – is building on the longstanding bipartisan commitment to medical research. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have rightly prioritized biomedical research as part of the nation’s public health infrastructure by proposing a robust increase for NIH in draft spending bills. While emergency appropriations packages have provided some much-needed relief, the most effective path forward includes prompt attention to regular appropriations that provides predictable, sustainable, and timely increases in funding.

We encourage you to move forward in good faith negotiations to fund the government for FY 2022 and include a strong investment in biomedical research by providing at least \$49.4 billion to NIH and at least

\$2.237 billion for the NIDDK to ensure we lead the world in providing new and better cures, diagnostics, and treatments while protecting all patients and the research enterprise.

If you have any questions or if you would like additional information about the work of NIDDK, please contact Mila Becker at mbecker@endocrine.org who will be happy to assist or provide you with a contact at any of the organizations below.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Diabetes Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Liver Foundation
American Kidney Fund
American Pancreatic Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Nephrology
American Society for Microbiology
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Hematology
American Urogynecologic Society
American Urological Association
Beyond Celiac
Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Endocrine Society
FARE (Food Allergy Research and Education)
Global Liver Institute
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
JDRF
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
National Kidney Foundation
National Pancreas Foundation
NephCure Kidney International
Nutrition and Medical Foods Coalition
Organic Acidemia Association
PKD Foundation
Renal Physicians Association
The Simon Foundation for Continence