

The NHLBI Constituency Group

AABB

**Adult Congenital Heart Association
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Association for Thoracic Surgery
American Association of Sleep Medicine
America's Blood Centers
American College of Cardiology
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Red Cross
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Nephrology
American Thoracic Society
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, Inc.
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
COPD Foundation**

Dorney-Koppel Foundation

**Heart Rhythm Society
Heart Valve Voice US
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Lung Cancer Alliance
Mended Hearts, Inc.
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Marfan Foundation
Pediatric Congenital Heart Association
Project Sleep
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Interventional Radiology
Women's Heart Alliance
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease**

March 22, 2019

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

The 43 member organizations of the NHLBI Constituency Group urge you to include in the FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriation bill \$41.6 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$3.71 billion for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

A funding level of this amount would allow the NIH to sustain current activities and invest in promising and critically needed scientific research. Despite recent budget increases, NHLBI funding has declined by 22% in constant dollars since 2003. An FY 2020 appropriation of \$41.6 billion for the NIH, including \$3.71 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.

Since 1948, the NHLBI has made important progress in the treatment and prevention of heart disease, stroke, asthma, emphysema, sickle cell disease, Cooley's anemia, diabetes, sleep disorders and other diseases. 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 2020 appropriation of \$3.71 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.

A number of breakthroughs are on the horizon for heart, lung, blood, and blood vessel diseases as well as sleep disorders. Now is the time to invest in research to combat these diseases. Thank you.