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| ADULT CONGENITAL HEART ASSOCIATION | AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY | GO2 FOUNDATION FOR LUNG CANCER | PLATELET DISORDER SUPPORT ASSOCIATION |
| ALLERGY & ASTHMA NETWORK | AMERICAN VASCULAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION | HEALTHYWOMEN | PULMONARY HYPERTENSION ASSOCIATION |
| ALLIANCE FOR AGING RESEARCH | ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF BLOOD AND BIOTHERAPIES | HEART FAILURE SOCIETY OF AMERICA | RESPIRATORY HEALTH ASSOCIATION |
| ALPHA-1 FOUNDATION | ASSOCIATION OF BLACK CARDIOLOGISTS | HEART RHYTHM SOCIETY | RESTLESS LEGS SYNDROME FOUNDATION |
| AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS | ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS | HEART VALVE VOICE US | SLEEP RESEARCH SOCIETY |
| AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE | BREATHE AMERICA | HEMOPHILIA FEDERATION OF AMERICA | SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR ANGIOGRAPHY AND INTERVENTIONS |
| AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THORACIC SURGERY | CHILDREN'S HEART FOUNDATION | HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY ASSOCIATION | SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE |
| AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SLEEP MEDICINE | CHILD NEUROLOGY SOCIETY | JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION | SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE |
| AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS | CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY FOUNDATION | LAM FOUNDATION | 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 | SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS |
| AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION | CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION | NATIONAL BLEEDING DISORDERS FOUNDATION | U.S. COPD COALITION |
| AMERICAN RED CROSS | DORNEY-KOPPEL FOUNDATION | PROJECT SLEEP | WAIHA WARRIORS |
| AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY | EMPHYSEMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA | PEDIATRIC & CONGENITAL INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOVASCULAR SOCIETY | WOMEN'S HEART ALLIANCE |
| AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY | FOUNDATION FOR SARCOIDOSIS RESEARCH | | WOMENHEART |
| AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY | | | |

April 26, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
 Ranking Member
 Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the 69 member organizations of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Constituency Group, we encourage you to include a robust allocation for the National Institutes of Health, including at least \$4.281 billion for the NHLBI in the FY 2025 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill. This investment will allow the NIH to maintain progress on mission-critical research addressing cardiovascular, respiratory, blood, and sleep-related disorders. Unfortunately, despite research advances, these conditions continue to be among the leading causes of death and disability in the United States.

With recent stagnation of funding, the NHLBI will be unable to keep pace with the rising cost of research. Our recommendation reflects the Biomedical Research Development Price Index, which is projected to be 2.7% in FY2025, plus 5% real growth, allowing the NHLBI to sustain its research portfolio. There are real warning signs that the NIH cannot keep pace with inflationary pressures. For example, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute reports that although its budget has increased by 22% since 2016, this new funding has only been able to keep pace with inflation. The cost of

conducting research under major R01 grants, for example, has also increased by 22%¹ because of cost increases for personnel, laboratory space, equipment, and supplies.

Over 75 years, NHLBI has supported groundbreaking research that has helped improve longevity and quality of life for people in the United States and worldwide. The institute will continue to conduct major initiatives and pursue critical scientific opportunities to prevent and develop new treatments for heart, lung, blood, and sleep diseases and conditions.

For example:

- NHLBI-funded CRISPR technology was used to develop the first treatments to cure Sickle Cell Anemia, demonstrating the power of gene-editing therapy and the promise of this and other biomedical technologies in prevention and treatment and the potential to focus community-level interventions for those who are most vulnerable.
- Recognizing that those living in rural communities face a disproportionate burden of heart and lung disease, the NHLBI developed the Risk Underlying Rural Areas Longitudinal (RURAL) Cohort Study in ten rural communities, using community-engaged partners and high-tech mobile research units to collect data from these population for use in precision medicine research and interventions to reduce health disparities.
- NHLBI continues to focus on community-driven initiatives such as the Maternal Health, Community Implementation Project (MH-CIP), and Early Intervention to Promote Cardiovascular Health of Mothers and Children (ENRICH) to address women's health before, during, and after pregnancy.
- Furthermore, the NHLBI is carrying forward its sleep research plan to study sleep health across the life cycle. Through this work, a more accurate tool has been developed for diagnosing obstructive sleep apnea, a condition estimated to affect over 30 million people, increasing their risk for cardiovascular disease and mortality.

As Congress works to pass legislation to fund the federal government, it must ensure that the NIH is provided with sufficient resources to conduct vital basic, clinical, and translational research. This resourcing will lead to advances in the treatment of cardiovascular disease, including heart failure and congenital heart disease, lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma, blood disorders such as sickle cell disease and hemophilia, and sleep health.

We thank you for considering our appropriations recommendation. 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 need additional information.

Sincerely,

Valerie Adelson
Co-chair, NHLBI Constituency Group

John Laughner
Co-chair, NHLBI Constituency Group

¹ NHLBI Director's Report, NHLBI Advisory Council Meeting, February 8, 2023