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December 2, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for H.R. 34, the 21st Century Cures Act

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Reid, Chairman Alexander, and Ranking Member Murray:

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) is a professional organization of more than 6,000 members. Our membership includes allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health and related health care professionals who focus on research and treatment of allergic and immunologic diseases. The AAAAI applauds Congress' effort to examine ways to accelerate the pace of biomedical discoveries and to bridge the gap between the laboratory bench and the patient bedside. Indeed, the 21st Century Cures legislation promises to profoundly affect our nation's innovations in health care, its investments in medical research and the delivery of life saving and life improving therapies.

On behalf of the AAAAI, I write in support of the 21st Century Cures Act. We want to thank you for ensuring that a provision to provide coverage for the education, training and monitoring necessary for patients receiving home infusions (Sec. 5012) was included in the package. As you may be aware, this change is especially important to maintain access for our patients with primary immune deficiencies (PI) who require replacement therapy with subcutaneous immunoglobulin in the home setting. In addition, we are appreciative of your language to address antimicrobial resistance and stewardship. We hope to have future discussions with you related to the use of penicillin allergy testing to assist with better targeting the use of antibiotics. We also support the inclusion

(more)

of Sec. 2041 which establishes a task force on research specific to pregnant women and lactating women. Finally, we support your efforts to provide additional funds for the National Institutes of Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas B. Casale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas B. Casale, MD FAAAAI
Executive Vice President