



April 11, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair, House Appropriations  
Labor/HHS/Ed. Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair, Senate Appropriations  
Labor/HHS/Ed. Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations  
Labor/HHS/Ed. Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations  
Labor/HHS/Ed. Subcommittee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support Funding for the National Institutes of Health**

Dear Chairman Cole, Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member DeLauro and Ranking Member Murray:

We write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) and the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) in support of an increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of at least \$2 billion above fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations, in order to account for inflation.

The AAAAI and ACAAI strongly urge appropriators to maintain the NIH's ability to conduct life-saving medical research and training. NIH, and in particular the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) are providing vital funding for medical research that could lead to life-improving treatments for individuals suffering from allergies, asthma, immunologic disorders and infectious diseases.

Each year, billions of dollars are spent treating the causes and symptoms of food, drug and skin allergy, immunodeficiency, and asthma. Through the work of NIAID, NHLBI and NIEHS and the research they are funding, we have the opportunity to identify and develop life-saving and life-improving treatments for these widespread chronic conditions.

This past October, NIAID researchers announced promising results from an NIH sponsored clinical trial on the efficacy and value of an intervention for treating children and young adults with peanut allergies. This January, an NIAID-sponsored expert panel issued clinical guidelines to help healthcare providers give parents and caregivers important information on early introduction of peanut-containing foods to infants to prevent the development of peanut allergy. These are the type of results the American people can expect from supporting NIH and their medical research mission. AAAAI and ACAAI hope the NIH will also begin work on implementing the recommendations contained within the Report from the NAID Workshop on Drug Allergy, which would advance our knowledge of the mechanisms, diagnosis, management, and prevention of drug allergy.

**(more)**

The AAAAI and ACAAI are professional organizations representing allergist/immunologists across the United States, Canada, and 72 other countries. Our members include board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

We sincerely thank the 217 bipartisan members of the House of Representatives who have already endorsed this request for at least \$36 billion in NIH funding for FY 2018 in a Dear Colleague letter dated March 31, 2017. The AAAAI and ACAAI call on appropriators to continue bipartisan support for the NIH as you embark on enacting appropriations bills for FY 2018.

Sincerely,



David B. Peden, MD, MS, FAAAAI  
AAAI President



Stephen A. Tilles, MD, FACAAI  
ACAAI President