



Friends of NICHD

Supporting the Eunice Kennedy Shriver

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

June 12, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole, and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

As you prepare to mark up the Fiscal Year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we ask you to consider our coalition's support for funding the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Friends of NICHD are very grateful for the strong, bipartisan support your subcommittees have given the NIH and NICHD. Thanks to your leadership, NIH received a historic \$3 billion increase in FY 2018, while NICHD received an impressive \$71 million increase. In testimony we've submitted to your subcommittees, the Friends of NICHD have urged you to continue supporting NIH and NICHD in FY 2019. Specifically, we've endorsed the Ad Hoc group for Medical Research FY 2019 funding recommendation, which would give the **NIH \$39.3 billion, a \$2.2 billion increase over the agency's FY 2018 level, and NICHD a proportionate increase bringing its funding to \$1.531 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, an increase of \$79 million over FY 2018.**

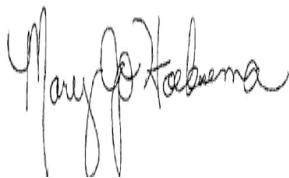
The Friends of NICHD is a coalition of over 100 organizations representing scientists, physicians, health care providers, patients, and parents concerned with the health and welfare of women, children, and families, and people with disabilities. A complete list of the Friends of NICHD is attached. All of these organizations are pleased to support the extraordinary work of NICHD.

Since its establishment in 1963, NICHD has achieved great success in meeting the objectives of its broad biomedical, behavioral, and social research mission, which includes research on child development before and after birth; women's health throughout the life cycle; maternal, child, and family health; learning and language development; reproductive biology; population health; and medical rehabilitation. With sufficient resources, NICHD can build upon the promising initiatives it has undertaken over the last 50 years, produce new insights into human development, and develop solutions to health and developmental problems throughout the world, including those individuals and families in your districts and states, and expand efforts, including:

- Increasing investment in longitudinal behavioral and biobehavioral work on child developmental trajectories, across infancy, childhood, and adolescence, in both normative and at-risk environments, across diverse contexts (school, home, and community) and including underrepresented and vulnerable groups;
- Improving survival rates, neurological outcomes, and birth defects rates for preterm infants;
- Supporting research to address unique effects of the opioid epidemic on newborns, children, and their families;
- Training the next generation of pediatric clinical investigators;
- Developing effective prevention, treatment, and intervention strategies for children and adults with developmental disabilities;
- Encouraging research to better understand the mechanisms of disparities, to include social determinants of health and genetic factors that adversely affect pregnancy outcomes;
- Better evaluating the health outcomes of spinal cord injuries;
- Using robotics to improve technologies for prosthetic limb production;
- Investing in large-scale longitudinal studies to understand how social, environmental and genetic factors affect the long-term health and well-being of children and adults; and,
- Facilitating research regarding the causes and implications of the increasing rates of maternal mortality in the U.S.

With sustained support in FY 2019, NICHD will be able to continue funding research and research training activities to fulfill its mission of improving the health and well-being of mothers, children, and families. We thank you for your longstanding support of the NIH and encourage you to make NICHD a top priority as you work on the FY 2019 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Mary Jo Hoeksema
2018 Chair
Friends of NICHD



Joseph Laakso
2018 Vice-Chair
Friends of NICHD

Attachment

Friends of NICHD Organizational List

Advocates for Youth
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Anthropological Association
American Association of University Affiliated Programs
American Association on Mental Retardation
American Chemistry Council
American College of Medical Genetics
American College of Nurse Midwives
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine
American Educational Research Association
American Federation for Medical Research
American Kidney Fund
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Pediatric Society & Society for Pediatric Research
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Cell Biology
American Society for Clinical Nutrition
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutritional Sciences
American Society for Parenteral & Enteral Nutrition
American Society for Reproductive Immunology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Sociological Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Urogynecologic Society
Amputee Coalition of America
Association for Health Services Research
Association for Human Genetics
Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairmen
Association of Population Centers
Association for Psychological Science
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Association of SIDS & Infant Mortality Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, & Neonatal Nurses
Autism Coalition
Autism Society of America
Center for Injury Research and Policy at the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital
Cerebral Palsy International Research Foundation
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
CJ Foundation for SIDS
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Consortium of Family Organizations
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Exceptional Children
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences
First Candle/SIDS Alliance
FRAXA Research Foundation
Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth
Hydrocephalus Association
Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research
International Rett Syndrome Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International
Kids TLC
Learning Disabilities Association of America
March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation
Mental Health America
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance for Autism Research
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Child Development Institute
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council on Family Relations
National Down Syndrome Society
National Down Syndrome Congress

National Easter Seal Society
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Fragile X Foundation
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Pediatric and Family HIV Resource Center
National Safe Kids Campaign
National SIDS and Infant Death Project IMPACT
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
Nemours, Inc.
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
Pediatrix Medical Group
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Population Resource Center
Preeclampsia Foundation
Premature Ovarian Failure Support Group
Resolve, Inc.
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research
Society for Gynecologic Investigation
Society for Gynecologic Oncologists
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Women's Health Research
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Spina Bifida Association of America
Teratology Society
The Alan Guttmacher Institute
The Alliance of Genetic Support Groups
The Arc
The Chromosome 18 Registry and Research Society
The Endocrine Society
The International Dyslexia Association
The Pediatric Trauma Society
Trisomy 18 Foundation
UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health
United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation