



March 22, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations are members of the Friends of NIDDK. We are a coalition of professional societies and patient advocacy groups with a commitment to promoting and sustaining the vital research activities of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). On behalf of the Coalition, we would like to thank you for your support of biomedical research and leadership to increase funding for NIH and NIDDK in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 omnibus. **For FY 2017, the Friends of NIDDK respectfully request funding of \$2.165 billion for the Institute.**

The Friends of NIDDK was established in 2013 with the vision of uniting organizations to speak with one voice about the important research being conducted by the Institute. In the short time since its inception, over 45 national and local organizations have joined the Friends of NIDDK to rally their support for the Institute's activities.

NIDDK has made numerous scientific advances made through the Institute's ongoing research and robust federal funding is needed to spur future scientific initiatives. NIDDK conducts and supports medical research and research training on diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic diseases; digestive diseases, nutritional disorders, and obesity; as well as kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases. Collectively these are some of the most common, yet costly, diseases impacting Americans.

For example, the nearly 116 million Americans that have diabetes and prediabetes cost the nation \$322 billion in 2012 alone. About 26 million American adults have chronic kidney disease and millions of others are at increased risk, although NIH investments in kidney research are less than 1% of Medicare costs for kidney care. It is estimated that 1.4 million Americans suffer from Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis with approximately 30,000 new cases diagnosed each year, costing more than \$2.2 billion in direct and indirect costs annually in the United States, another significant economic burden on our health care system. Urologic diseases affect people of all ages, result in significant health care expenditures, and may lead to substantial disability and impaired quality of life. These diseases represent only a portion of the NIDDK research portfolio, but underscore the need for continued investment.

Research activities funded by NIDDK are utilizing innovative technology to discover cross-cutting solutions that will ultimately reduce health care costs and improve quality of life for millions of Americans. With increased resources, NIDDK could implement a wide array of new opportunities, some of which could prove invaluable in our understanding of these debilitating diseases. Some of the Institute's most recent research has examined genetic variants, biomarkers, inter-organ nerve communication, artificial organ production, and many other exciting and ground-breaking issues that deserve continued support.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you in support of the work of NIDDK. Should you have any questions or require additional resources regarding NIDDK activities, please contact the Friends of NIDDK's Washington representative, Jim Twaddell, at Jim.Twaddell@dbr.com or (202) 230-5130.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Association of Kidney Patients
American Diabetes Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Kidney Fund
American Liver Foundation
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Pancreatic Association
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Transplantation
American Urogynecologic Society
American Urological Association
Beyond Celiac
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Hepatitis Foundation International
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
JDRF
National Kidney Foundation
Organic Acidemia Association
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
PKD Foundation
Renal Physicians Association
The Simon Foundation for Continence



March 22, 2016

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

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

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

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