

The NHLBI Constituency Group

AABB	Dorney-Koppel Foundation
Adult Congenital Heart Association	Heart Rhythm Society
Alliance for Aging Research	Heart Valve Voice US
Alpha-1 Association	Hemophilia Federation of America
Alpha-1 Foundation	Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
American Association for Respiratory Care	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
American Association for Thoracic Surgery	Lung Cancer Alliance
American Association of Sleep Medicine	Mended Hearts, Inc.
America's Blood Centers	National Hemophilia Foundation
American College of Cardiology	National Marfan Foundation
American Diabetes Association	Pediatric Congenital Heart Association
American Heart Association	Project Sleep
American Lung Association	Pulmonary Hypertension Association
American Red Cross	Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
American Society of Echocardiography	Sleep Research Society
American Society of Nephrology	Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
American Thoracic Society	Society for Vascular Surgery
Association of Black Cardiologists	Society of Interventional Radiology
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools	Women's Heart Alliance
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, Inc.	WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
Cooley's Anemia Foundation	
COPD Foundation	

March 22, 2019

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

The 43 member organizations of the NHLBI Constituency Group urge you to include in the FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriation bill \$41.6 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$3.71 billion for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

A funding level of this amount would allow the NIH to sustain current activities and invest in promising and critically needed scientific research. Despite recent budget increases, NHLBI funding has declined by 22% in constant dollars since 2003. An FY 2020 appropriation of \$41.6 billion for the NIH, including \$3.71 billion for NHLBI would permit the NIH to capitalize on its ability to enhance patient health and care, boost economic growth, and promote scientific discovery.

Since 1948, the NHLBI has made important progress in the treatment and prevention of heart disease, stroke, asthma, emphysema, sickle cell disease, Cooley's anemia, diabetes, sleep disorders and other diseases. Even with this progress, challenges remain as these conditions continue to account for more than 1 million American deaths each year and cost our nation an estimated \$479 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity.

To continue important advances in research, the NHLBI is investing in prevention programs and new treatments for cardiovascular disease including congenital heart disease, developing novel therapies for lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, cystic and pulmonary fibrosis, improving the treatment of blood disorders such as sickle cell disease and hemophilia, and driving precision medicine that is tailored to individual patient needs through data science.

As the worldwide leader in research on heart, lung, blood, and blood vessel diseases as well as sleep disorders, the NHLBI effectively translates research results to the American public. An FY 2020 appropriation of \$3.71 billion for the NHLBI would allow the Institute to enhance current programs and pursue promising basic, translational, clinical, and prevention research to better diagnose, treat and prevent these diseases.

A number of breakthroughs are on the horizon for heart, lung, blood, and blood vessel diseases as well as sleep disorders. Now is the time to invest in research to combat these diseases. Thank you.