June 19, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  The Honorable Diana DeGette
Chairman  Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce  Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives  Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515  United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member DeGette:

The 75 research, life sciences industry, and patient advocacy organizations listed below join together in offering our strong support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding provisions included in the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6).

The work of our research institutions and members, as well as progress in the fight against the diseases we care greatly about, depends on steady, robust funding from NIH. As you well know, as a result of flat funding, NIH’s purchasing power has eroded over the past decade resulting in only one-in-seven grants being funded and countless lost opportunities for discovery and cures. H.R. 6 stands to help reverse this trend by increasing NIH’s annual authorization by approximately $1.5 billion for each of three years and creating a new mandatory Innovation Fund of $2 billion per year to boost biomedical research above discretionary levels for the next five years. As long as the Innovation Fund supplements and does not replace regular NIH appropriations, this would be a tremendous step in the right direction.

The scientific breakthroughs that take place across this nation with funding from NIH have raised life expectancy and improved the quality of life for countless Americans. And they amount to an economic engine that sustains American international competitiveness. The blueprint for funding included in this bill has the potential to provide NIH with the resources needed to improve how we prevent and treat many of society’s most vexing diseases, including the thousands for which we currently do not have effective treatments.

We commend your leadership in developing truly bipartisan legislation to address NIH funding and encourage all House members to co-sponsor this important bill, which will help ensure the United States remains the world’s medical innovation leader.

Sincerely,