



June 19, 2015

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society, I write in strong support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding provisions in the 21st Century Cures Act.

Over the past decade, NIH's purchasing power has greatly eroded, resulting in lost scientific opportunities and threatening to discourage the next generation of talented biomedical scientists and engineers.¹ Robust, sustained funding for NIH is the pathway to progress. The 21st Century Cures Act authorizes roughly \$1.5 billion increases over three years and creates an Innovation Fund of \$2 billion per year over five years; this Innovation Fund should supplement, and not supplant, regular NIH appropriations. Finding cures is the goal, and we can't reach that goal without the critical research that NIH is conducting with the hope of ultimately improving the lives of patients worldwide.

I also would like to applaud House Energy and Commerce Committee leaders on their deliberative process in producing this major bill in a bipartisan fashion with significant stakeholder input, underscored by the bill's unanimous passage in committee.

We are deeply appreciative that the 21st Century Cures Act recognizes the importance of NIH research. We at AAAS stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Fink
Chair, AAAS Board of Directors
Herman and Margaret Sokol Professor
Whitehead Institute/Massachusetts Institute of Technology

¹ <http://www.aaas.org/fy16budget/national-institutes-health>