

The NHLBI Constituency Group

Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association for Respiratory Care
AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks)
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
America's Blood Centers
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Red Cross
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Thoracic Society

American Vascular Association Foundation
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
COPD Foundation
Heart Rhythm Society
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Marfan Foundation
National Sleep Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Interventional Radiology
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

May 18, 2011

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you mark up the FY 2012 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, the NHLBI Constituency Group urges you to include \$35 billion for the National Institutes of Health. Our recommended funding level would allow the NIH to capitalize on the momentum to enhance health, create jobs, boost economic growth and innovation and promote science. Stable and sustained funding will help secure a solid return on Congress' investment in the NIH. Within our funding recommendation for the NIH, we strongly encourage you to include \$3.514 billion for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The NHLBI has a long history of achievements in improving the health of your constituents. Over the past 63 years the NHLBI has made progress in the battle against heart disease, stroke, asthma, emphysema, sickle cell disease, Cooley's anemia, diabetes, sleep disorders and other diseases. However, challenges remain because heart, lung, blood, and blood vessel diseases account for 43% of all deaths in the United States. These diseases kill more than 1 million Americans each year and cost our nation an estimated \$382 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity in 2007.

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 2012 appropriation of \$3.514 billion for the NHLBI would allow for the expansion of the Institute's current programs and for the initiation of promising planned basic, clinical and translational research initiatives. Additional resources are necessary for innovative, cost-effective approaches to 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.

Sincerely,

The NHLBI Constituency Group