



February 8, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair  
US Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chair  
US Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
US House Appropriations Committee &  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
US House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

The 34 undersigned patient, provider, healthcare, and research organizations who are members of the Friends of the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), write to urge the prompt passage of final Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations bills with a robust increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the work of the NIDDK.

As a deal on an omnibus has not yet been reached, we are concerned that additional continuing resolutions (CRs) beyond the February 18 deadline would further destabilize the biomedical research enterprise, which is already suffering due to COVID-19 induced disruptions. Because of the uncertainty of a CR, NIH will be unable to fully commit anticipated resources to multi-year grants, resulting in delays in funding for extremely competitive grants and high-impact new projects. These delays affect patients waiting for new treatments and cures, researchers, lab staff, graduate students and postdocs.

As members of the NIDDK research community, we also want to call your attention to the innovative work that is underway and at stake at this Institute. We encourage you to review the recent publication: [NIDDK: Recent Advances and Emerging Opportunities \(2022\)](#), which highlights important research advances published by NIDDK-funded scientists and their colleagues in FY 2021. It also contains “Personal Perspectives” of people who have given time and effort to participate in NIDDK-sponsored clinical research. The two-page [Executive Summary](#), which provides a snapshot of the advances and other research activities detailed in the annual report, may be a particularly helpful resource to you.

Our nation’s progress against COVID-19 – and every other health threat – is building on the longstanding bipartisan commitment to medical research. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have rightly prioritized biomedical research as part of the nation’s public health infrastructure by proposing a robust increase for NIH in draft spending bills. While emergency appropriations packages have provided some much-needed relief, the most effective path forward includes prompt attention to regular appropriations that provides predictable, sustainable, and timely increases in funding.

We encourage you to move forward in good faith negotiations to fund the government for FY 2022 and include a strong investment in biomedical research by providing at least \$49.4 billion to NIH and at least

\$2.237 billion for the NIDDK to ensure we lead the world in providing new and better cures, diagnostics, and treatments while protecting all patients and the research enterprise.

If you have any questions or if you would like additional information about the work of NIDDK, please contact Mila Becker at [mbecker@endocrine.org](mailto:mbecker@endocrine.org) who will be happy to assist or provide you with a contact at any of the organizations below.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Diabetes Association  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Kidney Fund  
American Pancreatic Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Urogynecologic Society  
American Urological Association  
Beyond Celiac  
Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Endocrine Society  
FARE (Food Allergy Research and Education)  
Global Liver Institute  
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
JDRF  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Pancreas Foundation  
NephCure Kidney International  
Nutrition and Medical Foods Coalition  
Organic Acidemia Association  
PKD Foundation  
Renal Physicians Association  
The Simon Foundation for Continence