

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2013

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Kingston and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

As Members of Congress who value the critical role played by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in better health outcomes, job creation, and economic growth, we respectfully request that the NIH receives at least \$32 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. We feel this amount is the minimum level of funding needed to reflect the rising costs associated with biomedical research and to help mitigate the impacts of sequestration. At a time of unprecedented scientific opportunity, it is critical that the United States make forward-thinking investments that promote medical breakthroughs as well as our international leadership in biomedical research.

Over the past decade, our nation's investment in NIH has often fallen short of what is needed to meet our research needs. After a doubling of NIH's budget that ended in 2003, Congressional appropriations for our nation's greatest research institution have stagnated and failed to keep pace with inflation. We can already see the wide-ranging impact this has had, with dramatically lower grant application success rates and less money available for new researchers seeking their first grant. Students are receiving a world-class education at American universities only to graduate and seek research positions in China, India, or other nations that emphasize investment in biomedical research.

There is time to reverse course, but we must act now. Training an aspiring scientist to be an independent investigator takes more than a decade and involves an extensive process similar to an apprenticeship. With the anemic funding biomedical researchers face today, we run the real risk of mentors leaving without being replaced and aspiring scientists being forced into other careers. Ultimately, we could lose an entire generation of biomedical researchers, which could take decades and significant expense to reverse.


Full funding for NIH is critical if the agency is to continue to serve as the world's preeminent medical research institution and our best hope for finding cures, improving treatments, and gaining a better understanding of the complex causes of diseases that affect millions of Americans. The agency conducts research that is too expensive and risky for private industry to undertake alone but has led to major advancements in our understanding of diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and Parkinson's. NIH funding has also been supporting the development and implementation of the new National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), which is dedicated to accelerating the conversion of basic research discoveries into clinical applications and therapies with tangible benefit to patients.

In addition to bettering the lives of millions, NIH funding supports 300,000 non-federal scientists and technical personnel at 2,500 research universities and facilities nationwide. Their work drives the demand for medical supplies and research equipment. NIH funding ripples far beyond its headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, benefitting manufacturers and suppliers in every state.

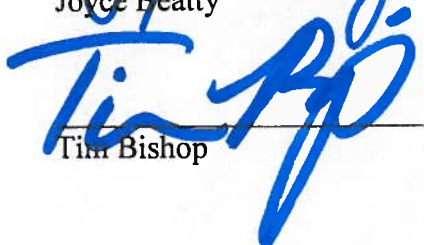
In light of the difficult budget decisions you face, we want to stress the importance of NIH as a job creator, a driver of economic growth, and a vital tool in curbing our nation's soaring healthcare costs. We appreciate your consideration of our request to provide at least \$32 billion in funding for NIH in FY 2014. Please contact Sara Schaumburg (Rep. Markey) at sara.schaumburg@mail.house.gov or Devon Seibert (Rep. McKinley) at devon.seibert@mail.house with any further questions.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey

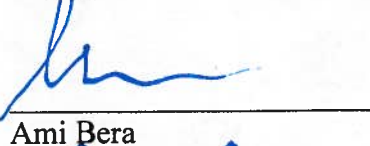

Rob Andrews

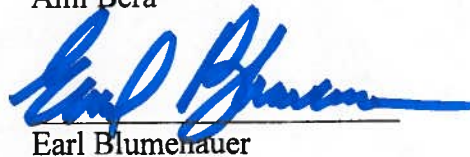

Joyce Beatty


Tim Bishop


David B. McKinley, P.E.


Ron Barber


Ami Bera


Earl Blumenauer

Suzanne Bonamici
Suzanne Bonamici

Robert Brady
Robert Brady

Cheri Bustos
Cheri Bustos

Lois Capps
Lois Capps

Tony Cardenas
Tony Cardenas

Kathy Castor
Kathy Castor

Judy Chu
Judy Chu

Yvette Clarke
Yvette Clarke

Mike Coffman
Mike Coffman

Gerald Connolly
Gerald Connolly

Jim Cooper
Jim Cooper

Joe Crowley
Joe Crowley

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Madeleine Z. Bordallo

Bruce Braley
Bruce Braley

G.K. Butterfield
G.K. Butterfield

Michael Capuano
Michael Capuano

André Carson
André Carson

Steve Chabot
Steve Chabot

David N. Cicilline
David N. Cicilline

Wm. Lacy Clay
Wm. Lacy Clay

Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen

John Conyers
John Conyers

Joe Courtney
Joe Courtney

Elijah E. Cummings
Elijah E. Cummings

Danny K. Davis

Danny K. Davis

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio

John Delaney

John Delaney

Theodore E. Deutch

Theodore E. Deutch

Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth

Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison

Anna Eshoo

Anna Eshoo

Sam Farr

Sam Farr

Michael Fitzpatrick

Michael Fitzpatrick

Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel

Susan Davis

Susan Davis

Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette

Suzan DelBene

Suzan DelBene

John Dingell

John Dingell

Mike Doyle

Mike Doyle

Donna Edwards

Donna Edwards

Eliot Engel

Eliot Engel

Elizabeth H. Esty

Elizabeth H. Esty

Chaka Fattah

Chaka Fattah

Bill Foster

Bill Foster

Marcia L. Fudge

Marcia Fudge

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard

Al Green

Al Green

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva

Luis Gutiérrez

Luis Gutiérrez

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings

Jim Himes

Jim Himes

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Mike Honda

Mike Honda

Steve Israel

Steve Israel

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

Joseph P. Kennedy III

Joseph P. Kennedy III

John Garamendi

John Garamendi

Gene Green

Gene Green

Michael G. Grimm

Michael G. Grimm

Colleen Hanabusa

Colleen Hanabusa

Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins

Rubén Hinojosa

Rubén Hinojosa

Rush Holt

Rush Holt

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee

Eddie Bernice Johnson

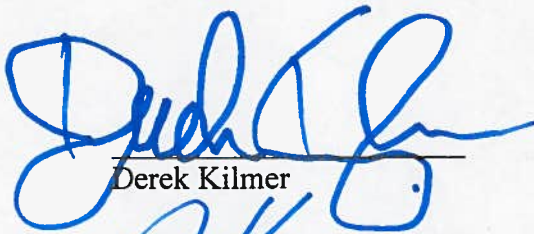
Eddie Bernice Johnson

Bill Keating

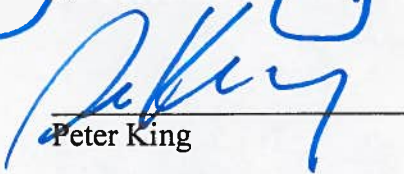
Bill Keating

Dan Kildee

Dan Kildee



Derek Kilmer



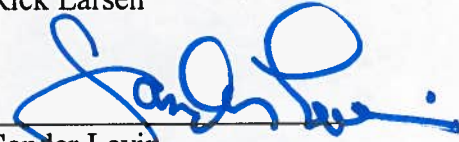
Peter King



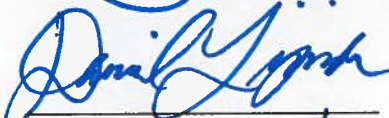
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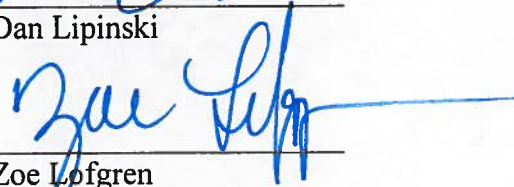
Rick Larsen



Sander Levin



Dan Lipinski



Zoe Lofgren



Ben Ray Lujan



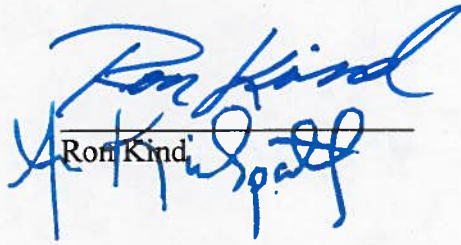
Dan Maffei



Sean Patrick Maloney



Carolyn McCarthy



Ron Kind

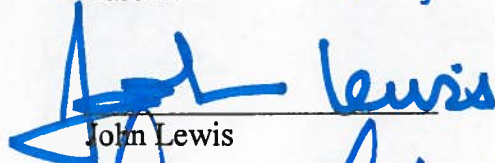
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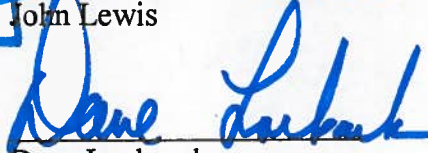
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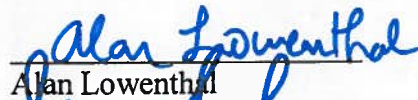
Barbara Lee



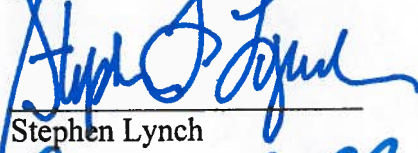
John Lewis



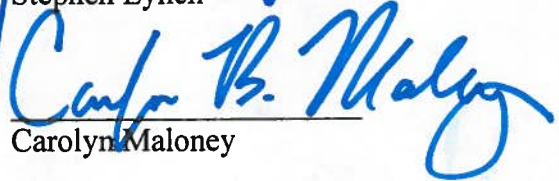
Dave Loebsack



Alan Lowenthal



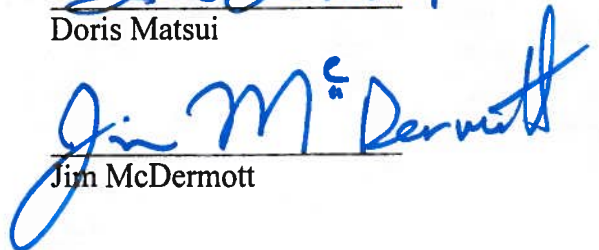
Stephen Lynch



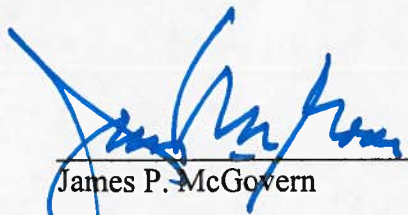
Carolyn Maloney



Doris Matsui



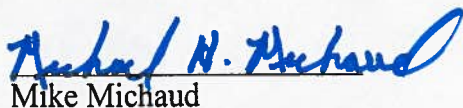
Jim McDermott



James P. McGovern



Gloria Negrete McLeod



Mike Michaud



Gwen Moore



Patrick Murphy



Grace F. Napolitano



Bill Owens



Bill Pascrell, Jr.



Ed Perlmutter



Collin Peterson



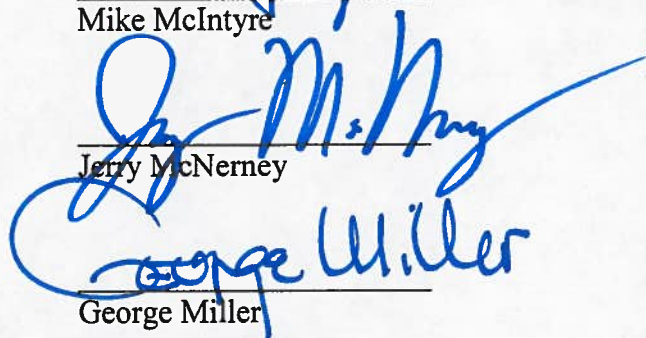
Mark Pocan



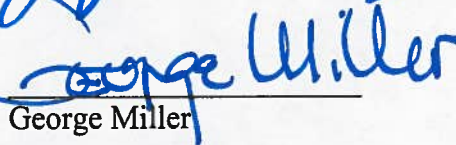
David Price



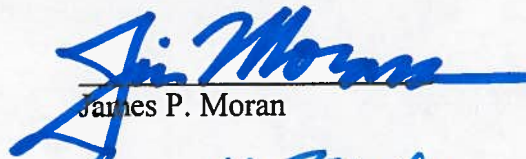
Mike McIntyre



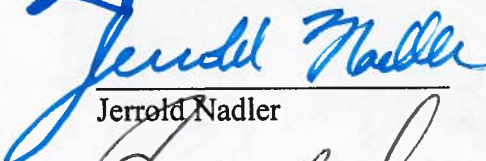
Jerry McNerney



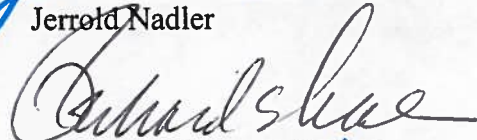
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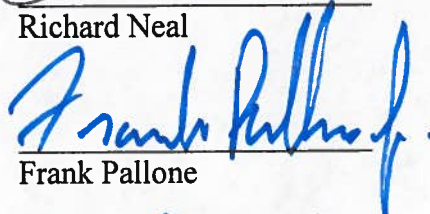
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Jerrold Nadler



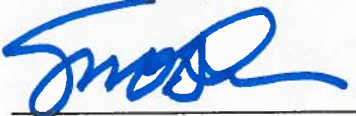
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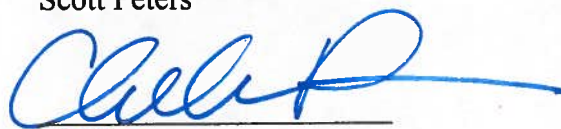
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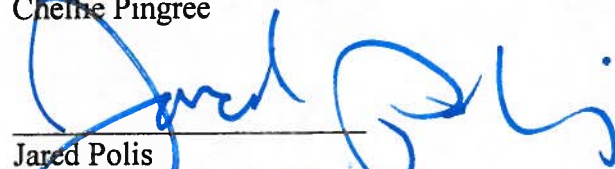
Donald Payne Jr.



Scott Peters



Chellie Pingree



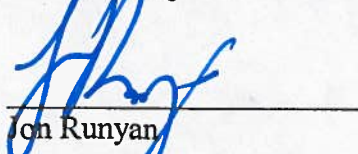
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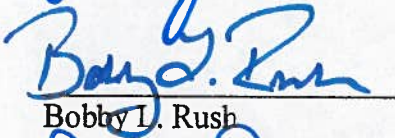
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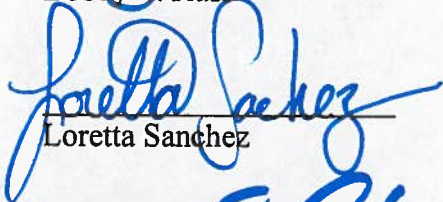
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Jon Runyan

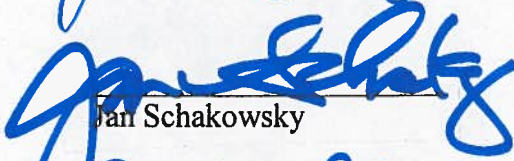
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Bobby L. Rush

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Loretta Sanchez

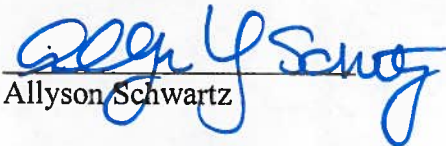
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Jan Schakowsky

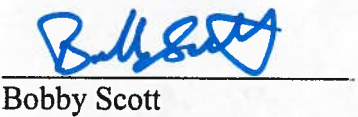
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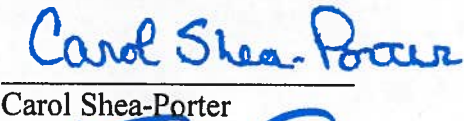
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Allyson Schwartz

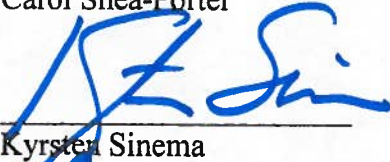
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Bobby Scott

Bobby Scott


Carol Shea-Porter

Carol Shea-Porter


Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema


Louise M. Slaughter

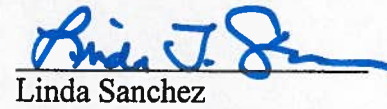
Louise Slaughter


Raul Ruiz

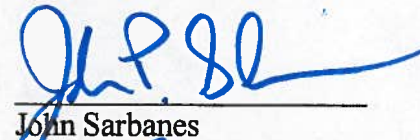
Raul Ruiz


Dutch Ruppersberger

Dutch Ruppersberger


Linda Sanchez

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John Sarbanes

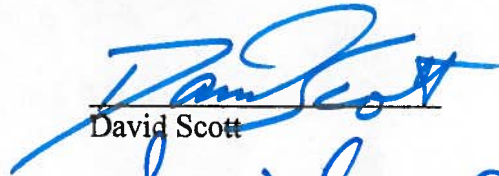
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Adam Schiff


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Kurt Schrader

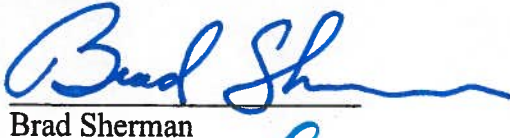
Kurt Schrader


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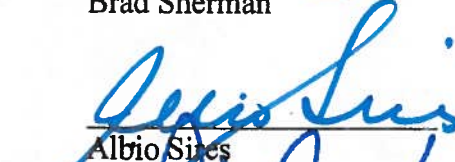
David Scott


Terri A. Sewell

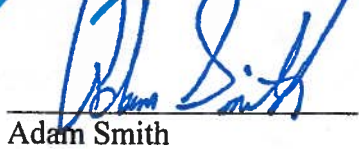
Terri A. Sewell


Brad Sherman

Brad Sherman


Albio Sires

Albio Sires


Adam Smith

Adam Smith

Jackie Speier
Jackie Speier

Mark Takano
Mark Takano

Mike Thompson
Mike Thompson

Dina Titus
Dina Titus

Niki Tsongas
Niki Tsongas

Juan Vargas
Juan Vargas

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Peter Welch
Peter Welch

John Yarnuth
John Yarnuth

Janice Hahn
Janice Hahn

Dana Rohrabacher
Dana Rohrabacher

Eric Swalwell
Eric Swalwell

Lee Terry
Lee Terry

John F. Tierney
John F. Tierney

Paul Tonko
Paul Tonko

Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen

Tim Walz
Tim Walz

Henry A. Waxman
Henry A. Waxman

Frederica Wilson
Frederica Wilson

Pete Sessions
Pete Sessions

Chris Smith
Chris Smith

Melvin L. Watt
Melvin L. Watt