



The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services
Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services
Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2017

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations as supporters of the Friends of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (FNIDCR) urge you to oppose President Trump's fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget request which recommends an unprecedented 20 percent cut to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and a major reorganization of its institutes of centers. We also urge you to oppose the Administrations' recent proposal to cut \$1.2 billion from NIH in the current fiscal year to pay for an increase in defense and the wall along the Mexican border. These proposals set a dangerous precedent.

Last year, Congress overwhelmingly and on a bipartisan basis approved the 21st Century Cures Act which reauthorized NIH for three years and provided targeted increased funding to bring cures to all Americans. Congress already indicated its strong support for all the NIH institutes and centers through this law. A re-organization at this time would seriously disrupt ongoing research and slow progress towards finding cures and more effective treatment options that will lead to better health for everyone.

FNIDCR is steadfastly committed to supporting the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) and the unique, vital and innovative role it plays in funding research to create less invasive, cost-effective and more efficient ways to improve oral health and lessen the economic burden dental, oral and craniofacial diseases and conditions place on Americans.

We are extremely grateful that Congress provided the most significant increases in funding for NIH and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) in over a decade in the FY2016 appropriations bill. We hope you can continue this trend in FY2017 by providing NIH and NIDCR with sustained and

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increased investments over time including at least \$34.1 billion for NIH and \$430.5 million for NIDCR and at least a \$2 billion increase for NIH over FY2017 levels and \$452 million for NIDCR in FY2018.

Dentists, researchers, students and the American public rely on the research funded by the NIDCR. For example, research in community water fluoridation has saved the American public at least \$38 for every \$1 invested. Increasing funding for NIDCR is the only way to ensure that these life-changing initiatives continue. Additionally, it is a critical step to improving the oral health of the nation and reducing the societal costs of dental care.

Finally, it is vitally important that Congress honors the long-standing tradition of allocating resources to the entire biomedical research enterprise at NIH, including all the institutes and centers. Funding provided via the 21st Century Cures Act should be used to supplement—not supplant—the core funding of NIH. Importantly, a discovery in one area of research may be applied to another. Maintaining flexibility, honoring the scientific peer-review process and supporting all research is critical to our endeavor to bring cures to Americans.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the highest funding level possible for NIDCR is enacted into law this year. We greatly appreciate your leadership thus far to help make this a reality. If you have any questions or require additional information please contact Carolyn Mullen the American Association for Dental Research director of government affairs at cmullen@aad.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Dentistry International

Academy of General Dentistry

Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation

AEGIS Communications

American Academy of Periodontology

American Association for Dental Research

American Association of Endodontists

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

American Association of Women Dentists

American Behcet's Disease Association

American Chronic Pain Association

American College of Prosthodontists

American Dental Association

American Dental Education Association

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American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Student Dental Association
Columbia University, College of Dental Medicine
DANTA Group LLC
Dental Trade Alliance
Dugoni School of Dentistry, University of the Pacific
East Carolina University
Eastman Institute for Oral Health at the University of Rochester
FACES: The National Craniofacial Association
Fibrous Dysplasia Foundation
Greater Tampa Bay Oral Health Coalition
Harvard School of Dental Medicine
International Foundation for Autoimmune Arthritis
International Pemphigus & Pemphigoid Foundation
Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Dentistry
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Medical University of South Carolina College of Dental Medicine
Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health-A.T. Still University
Moebius Syndrome Foundation
National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias
New York University
Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine
Oral Health America
Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP)
Roseman University College of Dental Medicine
Rutgers University School of Dental Medicine
Santa Fe Group
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation
Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine
Support for People with Oral, Head and Neck Cancer
The Dental College of Georgia
The Forsyth Institute
The Ohio State University, College of Dentistry
The TMJ Association
UCLA School of Dentistry
University of Alabama School of Dentistry

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University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine
University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine
University of Iowa College of Dentistry
University of Michigan School of Dentistry
University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
University of Missouri Kansas City School of Dentistry
University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry
University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine
University of Pittsburgh Dental Medicine
University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston
University of Utah School of Dentistry
Utah Oral Health Coalition