



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

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 reorganization 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

+1.703.548.0066  
+1.703.548.1883  
1619 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3406, USA  
[www.aadr.org/fnidcr](http://www.aadr.org/fnidcr)

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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@aadrr.org](mailto:cmullen@aadrr.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