

June 12, 2018

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

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

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

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

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

As you prepare to mark up the Fiscal Year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we ask you to consider our coalition's support for funding the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Friends of NICHD are very grateful for the strong, bipartisan support your subcommittees have given the NIH and NICHD. Thanks to your leadership, NIH received a historic \$3 billion increase in FY 2018, while NICHD received an impressive \$71 million increase. In testimony we've submitted to your subcommittees, the Friends of NICHD have urged you to continue supporting NIH and NICHD in FY 2019. Specifically, we've endorsed the Ad Hoc group for Medical Research FY 2019 funding recommendation, which would give the NIH \$39.3 billion, a \$2.2 billion increase over the agency's FY 2018 level, and NICHD a proportionate increase bringing its funding to \$1.531 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, an increase of \$79 million over FY 2018.

The Friends of NICHD is a coalition of over 100 organizations representing scientists, physicians, health care providers, patients, and parents concerned with the health and welfare of women, children, and families, and people with disabilities. A complete list of the Friends of NICHD is attached. All of these organizations are pleased to support the extraordinary work of NICHD.

Since its establishment in 1963, NICHD has achieved great success in meeting the objectives of its broad biomedical, behavioral, and social research mission, which includes research on child development before and after birth; women's health throughout the life cycle; maternal, child, and family health; learning and language development; reproductive biology; population health; and medical rehabilitation. With sufficient resources, NICHD can build upon the promising initiatives it has undertaken over the last 50 years, produce new insights into human development, and develop solutions to health and developmental problems throughout the world, including those individuals and families in your districts and states, and expand efforts, including:

- Increasing investment in longitudinal behavioral and biobehavioral work on child developmental trajectories, across infancy, childhood, and adolescence, in both normative and at-risk environments, across diverse contexts (school, home, and community) and including underrepresented and vulnerable groups;
- Improving survival rates, neurological outcomes, and birth defects rates for preterm infants;
- Supporting research to address unique effects of the opioid epidemic on newborns, children, and their families;
- Training the next generation of pediatric clinical investigators;
- Developing effective prevention, treatment, and intervention strategies for children and adults with developmental disabilities;
- Encouraging research to better understand the mechanisms of disparities, to include social determinants of health and genetic factors that adversely affect pregnancy outcomes;
- Better evaluating the health outcomes of spinal cord injuries;
- Using robotics to improve technologies for prosthetic limb production;
- Investing in large-scale longitudinal studies to understand how social, environmental and genetic factors affect the long-term health and well-being of children and adults; and,
- Facilitating research regarding the causes and implications of the increasing rates of maternal mortality in the U.S.

With sustained support in FY 2019, NICHD will be able to continue funding research and research training activities to fulfill its mission of improving the health and well-being of mothers, children, and families. We thank you for your longstanding support of the NIH and encourage you to make NICHD a top priority as you work on the FY 2019 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Hoeksema 2018 Chair

Friends of NICHD

Joseph Laakso 2018 Vice-Chair

Friends of NICHD

## Attachment

## Friends of NICHD Organizational List

Advocates for Youth

**Ambulatory Pediatric Association** 

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

American Anthropological Association

American Association of University Affiliated Programs

American Association on Mental Retardation

American Chemistry Council

American College of Medical Genetics

American College of Nurse Midwives

American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

American Educational Research Association

American Federation for Medical Research

American Kidney Fund

American Medical Student Association

American Nurses Association

American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association

American Pediatric Society

American Pediatric Society & Society for Pediatric Research

American Physical Therapy Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

American Society of Bone and Mineral Research

American Society for Cell Biology

American Society for Clinical Nutrition

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Nutritional Sciences

American Society for Parenteral & Enteral Nutrition

American Society for Reproductive Immunology

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

American Sociological Association

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

American Urogynecologic Society

Amputee Coalition of America

Association for Health Services Research

Association for Human Genetics

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairmen

**Association of Population Centers** 

Association for Psychological Science

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

Association of SIDS & Infant Mortality Programs

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, & Neonatal Nurses

**Autism Coalition** 

Autism Society of America

Center for Injury Research and Policy at the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital

Cerebral Palsy International Research Foundation

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Defense Fund

CJ Foundation for SIDS

Coalition for American Trauma Care

Consortium of Family Organizations

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Council for Exceptional Children

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

**Epilepsy Foundation** 

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology

Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences

First Candle/SIDS Alliance

FRAXA Research Foundation

Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth

Hydrocephalus Association

Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research

International Rett Syndrome Association

Jeffrey Modell Foundation

Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International

Kids TLC

Learning Disabilities Association of America

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation

Mental Health America

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Alliance for Autism Research

National Association of Children's Hospitals

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of Social Workers

National Black Child Development Institute

National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Council on Family Relations

National Down Syndrome Society

National Down Syndrome Congress

National Easter Seal Society

National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association

National Fragile X Foundation

National Osteoporosis Foundation

National Partnership for Women and Families

National Pediatric and Family HIV Resource Center

National Safe Kids Campaign

National SIDS and Infant Death Project IMPACT

National Women's Health Network

National Women's Law Center

Nemours, Inc.

Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation

Pediatrix Medical Group

Physicians for Reproductive Health

Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers

Population Resource Center

Preeclampsia Foundation

Premature Ovarian Failure Support Group

Resolve, Inc.

Reproductive Health Technologies Project

Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research

Society for Gynecologic Investigation

Society for Gynecologic Oncologists

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Society for Neuroscience

Society for Pediatric Research

Society for Research in Child Development

Society for Research on Adolescence

Society for Women's Health Research

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

Society for the Study of Reproduction

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Spina Bifida Association of America

**Teratology Society** 

The Alan Guttmacher Institute

The Alliance of Genetic Support Groups

The Arc

The Chromosome 18 Registry and Research Society

The Endocrine Society

The International Dyslexia Association

The Pediatric Trauma Society

Trisomy 18 Foundation

UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health

United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation