

Congressional National Institutes of Health (NIH)-Related Activities in 2016

Congressional Action in support of NIH Funding

- The House Appropriations Committee approved a Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 spending bill that includes \$33.3 billion for NIH, an increase of \$1.25 billion over the current FY16 budget. (July 14, 2016)
- The Senate Appropriations Committee approved an FY 2017 spending bill that includes \$34.1 billion for NIH, a \$2 billion increase for NIH over the current FY 2015 budget. (June 9, 2016)

Senate Innovation Initiative/21st Century Cures

- The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee continues to negotiate with the House Energy & Commerce Committee on a comprehensive bill that aims to accelerate the development of new cures and treatments for patients and provide a mandatory stream of funding for NIH.
- The Senate HELP Committee approved a series of bills in the spring of 2016 under the Innovation Initiative.
- The House passed H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures bill on July 10, 2015 by a vote of 344-77. Introduced by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Representative Diana DeGette (D-CO), the bill would establish an Innovation Fund to provide mandatory funding of \$8.75 billion (\$1.75 billion per year) to NIH over a five year period.

Senate NIH Caucus

- Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) continue to lead the bipartisan Senate NIH Caucus in May. The Caucus seeks “a bipartisan strategy to restore the purchasing power that NIH has lost and provide steady, predictable growth for biomedical research in the future.”

Dear Colleague Letters

- Senate Dear Colleague letter on NIH (March 15, 2016)
Led by Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Richard Burr (D-NC)
-Garnered more than 50 bipartisan signatories, urging a “strong commitment” to the NIH in FY 2017
- House Dear Colleague letter on NIH (March 24, 2016)
Led by Reps. David McKinley (R-WV), Andre Carson (D-IN), Peter King (R-NY), and Susan Davis (D-CA)
- Garnered nearly 200 bipartisan signatories, urging for at least \$34.5 billion for the NIH in FY 2017