

Congressional National Institutes of Health (NIH)-Related Activities in 2017

Congressional Action in support of NIH Funding

- Congress passed (and the President signed) a Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 spending bill that included \$34.1 billion for NIH, an increase of \$2 billion over the FY 2016 budget. This marked the second straight year that Congress approved a \$2 billion increase for the NIH. (May 5, 2017)
- Numerous members of Congress from both parties have spoken out against the proposed cuts to NIH funding included in the President's FY 2018 budget proposal, arguing instead for increased NIH funding.
- The House Appropriations Committee approved an FY 2018 spending bill that includes \$35.2 billion for the NIH, an increase of \$1.1 billion over the FY 2017 budget. (July 19, 2017)
- The Senate Appropriations Committee will consider spending bills in September.

Senate NIH Caucus

- Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) continue to lead the bipartisan Senate NIH Caucus in 2017. 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.”

House NIH Caucus

- Reps. Brian Higgins (D-NY), Peter King (R-NY) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) continue to lead the bipartisan House NIH Caucus in 2017. The goal of the Caucus is to “develop a plan to increase the purchasing power of the National Institutes of Health.”

Dear Colleague Letters

- House Dear Colleague letter on NIH (March 31, 2017)
Led by Reps. David McKinley (R-WV), Andre Carson (D-IN), Peter King (R-NY), and Susan Davis (D-CA)
- Garnered more than 200 bipartisan signatories, urging at least a \$2 billion increase for NIH in FY 2018
- Senate Dear Colleague letter on NIH (May 24, 2017)
Led by Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Richard Burr (R-NC)
- Garnered more than 50 bipartisan signatories, urging a “strong commitment” to NIH in FY 2018