

March 19, 2010

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Labor-HH-ED Subcm.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahart
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subc.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahart:

Thank you for your leadership on biomedical research and public health. As you consider the FY2011 Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies appropriation bill, the undersigned members of the Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) urge you to provide an appropriation of \$35 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The historic American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) two-year investment has generated remarkable scientific innovation that is paving the way for medical advances to improve public health. We urge Congress to sustain the biomedical research pipeline that has been generated through the ARRA through annual appropriations. Within our recommendation for the NIH, we ask you to provide \$779.4 million for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

The NIEHS plays a unique role within the NIH. It is the leading institute conducting research to reduce the burden of human illness and disability by understanding how the environment influences the development and progression of human disease. Groundbreaking research by the NIEHS has revealed the deadly effects of asbestos exposure, the effects of lead exposure on child development and the health effects of air pollution. The Institute's studies have been very instrumental in our new knowledge about the causes of cancer, including the discovery of the first breast cancer susceptibility gene. Investigating environmental and chemical exposure links to cancer remains a priority area for the NIEHS.

NIEHS's National Toxicology Program (NTP) is the leading federal program studying the toxicity of environmental agents in our environment. A major focus of the NTP is endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC), substances that act like hormones or disrupt the endocrine system in humans or wildlife which have been implicated in numerous adverse health effects. One of the NIEHS's key initiatives over the next few years will be to study the health effects of global climate change. The Institute has taken the lead among federal agencies to develop a comprehensive research plan to respond to the significant consequences that climate change is expected to have on human health.

The NIEHS is poised to generate many new exciting discoveries about the impact of environmental factors on human health. We ask you to provide \$779.4 million for the NIEHS in the FY2011 Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies appropriations

legislation. Thank you for your leadership in advancing biomedical research and public health.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American College of Chest Physicians
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Children's Environmental Health Network
Birth Defect Research for Children
Breast Cancer Fund
Heath Care Without Harm
Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition
Myositis Association
National Center for Environmental Health Strategies
Parkinsons Action Network
Prevention is the Cure
Society for Women's Health Research
WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Inc.