



March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, Chairman Blunt, and Ranking Member Murray:

The Friends of NIDDK is a coalition of professional societies and patient advocacy groups with a commitment to promoting and sustaining the vital research activities of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Friends of NIDDK was established with the vision of uniting organizations to speak with one voice about the important research being conducted by NIDDK.

On behalf of the coalition, we would like to thank you for your past efforts to increase funding for NIH and NIDDK. **The undersigned members of the Friends of NIDDK respectfully request \$2.165 billion in FY 2020 for NIDDK.**

As you know, NIDDK has made numerous scientific advances through its ongoing research, and continued robust federal funding is needed to spur future scientific initiatives. NIDDK conducts and supports medical research and research training for diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic diseases; digestive diseases, nutritional disorders, and obesity; and kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases. Collectively these are some of the most common and costly diseases impacting Americans.

For example, more than 30 million Americans have diabetes; diagnosed diabetes costs our country an annual \$327 billion. Although approximately 26 million American adults have chronic kidney disease and millions of others are at increased risk, NIH investments in kidney research are less than 1 percent of Medicare costs for kidney care, which were recently estimated at \$114 billion annually. Recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data indicates that the prevalence of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease, has nearly doubled over the past 15 years from 1.6 million to 3.3 million individuals affected. These diseases cost more than \$2.2 billion in direct and indirect costs annually. Urologic diseases affect people of all ages, result in significant health care expenditures, and may lead to substantial disability and impaired quality of life. These diseases represent only a portion of the NIDDK research portfolio but underscore the need for continued investment.

The Kidney Precision Medicine Project (KPMP), a multi-year project funded by NIDDK in coordination with several research centers nationwide, will advance our understanding of chronic kidney disease and acute kidney injury. The project has the potential to change the state of kidney care by creating a tissue atlas from human biopsies, defining unique targets for novel therapies, and enabling precision medicine. If successful, KPMP will help people with different kidney diseases receive individualized treatments. Additionally, April 2018 brought the very first treatment for autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD), the most common inherited kidney disorder. This treatment is possible because of basic science funding by NIDDK and is a great example of the long-term and significant impact NIDDK makes.

Research activities funded by NIDDK are utilizing innovative technology to discover cross-cutting solutions that will ultimately reduce health care costs and improve quality of life for millions of Americans. Some of the NIDDK's most recent research has examined genetic variants, biomarkers, inter-organ nerve communication, artificial organ production, and many other exciting and ground-breaking issues that deserve continued support. With increased resources, NIDDK could implement a wide array of important research initiatives, which could prove invaluable in our understanding of these debilitating diseases.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to support NIDDK. Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding the Friends of NIDDK, please contact the Gwen Rathbun at grathbun@diabetes.org or 703-253-4375.

Sincerely,

Alagille Syndrome Alliance
American Diabetes Association
American Kidney Fund
American Liver Foundation
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Pancreatic Association
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Nephrology
American Urogynecologic Society
American Urological Association
Beyond Celiac
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
JDRF
National Kidney Foundation
National Pancreas Foundation
NephCure Kidney International
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Nutrition & Medical Foods Coalition
Oley Foundation
Organic Acidemia Association
PKD Foundation
Solera Health, Inc.
The Simon Foundation for Continence