

April 27, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

The undersigned organizations are writing to thank you for assigning a top priority to advancing Innovations legislation and to offer our strong support as you work to secure “pay-fors” and bring a meaningful bipartisan bill to the Senate floor. We are truly grateful for the time and effort you and your staff members have devoted to the Innovations initiative. Your commitment to patients and their loved ones is clear. Please continue to fight for this initiative; your efforts to spur faster medical progress now will benefit Americans for generations.

Because of your vision and determination, the Innovations effort encompasses a surge in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The groundbreaking research NIH fosters, coupled with private sector investment and innovation, fuels our economy, grows jobs and most importantly saves lives. By putting more muscle behind NIH at a time of unprecedented opportunity for breakthrough progress, the Innovations initiative can -- and will -- shift the fight against deadly and debilitating diseases into high gear.

It is profoundly meaningful that you and other esteemed members of the Senate, including Finance Committee Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden, and Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid, are working together to craft and advance the Innovations package. Every American family has confronted illnesses that breed suffering and take loved ones too soon. You are fighting back on our behalf and we thank you.

Please call upon our organizations if we can assist in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Research!America
Abe's Garden
Academy of Radiology Research
AgeneBio, Inc.
Ali's Angels Foundation
Alzheimer and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin
Alzheimer's Mississippi
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
American College of Clinical Pharmacy Research Institute
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Surgeons
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Education Association
American Federation for Medical Research
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Lung Association
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Anatomy Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairs
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Autism Speaks
Aware of Angels

Batten Disease Support and Research Association
Baylor College of Medicine
Bert's Big Adventure
Beyond Celiac
Biophysical Society
Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation
Brain Injury Association of America
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation
Caregiver Action Network
Castleman Disease Collaborative Network
Children's National Health Systems
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Coalition for Clinical Trials Awareness
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
CURE - Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy
Cure HHT
Cure JM Foundation
Cure Sanfilippo Foundation
debra of America
Duke University and Duke University Health System
EB Research Partnership
EDSers United Foundation
Emory University
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Fabry Support & Information Group
FasterCures
Feinstein Institute
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Foundation Fighting Blindness
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
Gene Giraffe Project
Genetic Alliance
GNE Myopathy International
Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network
HIV Medicine Association
Hydrocephalus Association
IMRIS
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International WAGR Syndrome Association
International Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia Foundation
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Johnson
Keystone Symposia
Kids v Cancer
let them be little X2 Foundation
Louisiana State University
Lupus Foundation of America
March of Dimes
McLaughlin Research Institute
Mended Hearts
Mended Little Hearts
MLD Foundation
Moffitt Cancer Center
Mount Sinai Center for Cognitive Health
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Down Syndrome Society
National Health Council
National Leiomyosarcoma Foundation
National MPS Society
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National PKU Alliance
National Stroke Association
Neurotechnology Industry Organization
New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research

Noah's Hope
North American Vascular Biology Organization
Northeast Ohio Medical University
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research
Organic Acidemia Association
OWL-The Voice of Women 40+
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Parkinson's Action Network
Penn Medicine
Penn State College of Medicine
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates
PXE International
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research
Rare & Undiagnosed Network
Rare Disease United Foundation
RARE Science, Inc
RASopathies Network USA
SAVIR
Shepherd University
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Women's Health Research
Spastic Paraplegia Foundation
SSADH Association
Stanford University
Taylor's Tale
Texas Biomedical Research Institute
The ALS Association
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
The Clinical Research Forum
The Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc.
The Foundation for Prader-Willi Research
The Kortney Rose Foundation
The Mastocytosis Society
The Nicholas Conor Institute
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
UAB School of Medicine
University of California System
University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Maryland School of Medicine
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute
Usher 1F Collaborative, Inc.
UTHealth - The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Weill Cornell Medicine
With Purpose
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Orrin Hatch
The Honorable Ron Wyden