

AIRI

Association
of Independent
Research Institutes

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airi.org

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January 21, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt, and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

On behalf of the Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI), thank you for your leadership in passing the FY 2016 omnibus spending that includes \$32 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). AIRI appreciates your bipartisan collaboration to develop a bill that recognizes the importance of innovative medical research to the nation's health. The \$2 billion increase for NIH is necessary to the development of life-enhancing treatments and cures to improve the nation's health and competitiveness.

AIRI is a national organization of 80 independent, non-profit research institutes that perform basic and clinical research in the biological and behavioral sciences. AIRI member institutes fundamentally differ from universities in that our research-only missions provide an environment that is particularly conducive to scientific creativity and innovation. Our impact on scientific research is significant, with independent research institutes consistently competing successfully for NIH peer-reviewed research grants.

Again, AIRI commends you for your leadership in passing the FY 2016 omnibus appropriations bill. We look forward to working with you to continue sustained, predictable increases in federal support for medical research through the NIH and help bring hope to millions of Americans and their families who are affected by devastating illnesses and conditions.

Sincerely,



Cary E. Thomas
President