

November x, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human,
Education, and Related Agencies Services
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human,
Education, and Related Agencies Services
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairwomen Murray and DeLauro and Ranking Members Blunt and Cole:

The undersigned organizations are members of the Friends of NICHD, a coalition of professional societies and patient advocacy groups with a vested interest in promoting and sustaining the vital research activities of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

The Friends of NICHD are grateful to both Subcommittees for your generous spending proposals for FY 22, and we urge you to continue working together to maintain your commitment to this agency as you negotiate an omnibus spending bill. **With that in mind, we again strongly encourage you to fund the NIH at least \$46.6 billion, as included in the House bill. We also ask that you fund NICHD at \$1.7 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, an increase of \$117 million over FY 2021.** Both House and Senate proposals came up just short of this level.

We appreciate your support of the administration's request of \$30 million for the Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) Initiative, and maintaining the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) and funding the initiative at \$180 million in FY 22.

NICHD has made extraordinary achievements in meeting the objectives of its biomedical, social, and behavioral research mission, including research on pregnancy; reproductive biology; women's health throughout the life cycle; maternal, child, and family health; learning and language development; population health; and medical rehabilitation. Furthermore, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers continue to support research infrastructure for developmental research to advance the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and amelioration of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The institute is also playing a pivotal role in the work to understand the short and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on children, pregnant women, mothers and babies, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and others under the unique purview of NICHD. Over the last year, the NICHD has been an active participant in NIH institute and center-wide discussions on COVID-19,

including working to ensure that NICHD's populations are included in COVID-19 related research (e.g., vaccine and therapeutic clinical trials).

NICHD's has helped advance critical research due in large part to the strong support and leadership the Agency receives from both parties. Therefore, we encourage you to reach a bipartisan spending agreement by December 3, when the current continuing resolution (CR) expires. If the budget cannot be finalized by then, and another short-term CR needs to be enacted, we ask that you please ensure NICHD's ongoing work is supported.

With sustained support in FY 2022, NICHD will be able to continue funding research and training activities to advance its mission while also confronting the pandemic, which will have lasting effects on all individuals. We thank you for your longstanding support of the NIH and encourage you to make NICHD a top priority and support the funding level of \$1.7 billion as you work on finalizing FY 22 federal budget.

Sincerely,

[List of endorsing organizations]