

May 16, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price, MD
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Price:

We write as leaders of organizations strongly committed to the discovery mission of the National Institutes of Health and who believe that sustaining U.S. leadership in biomedical research is vital to domestic and global public health as well as American security and prosperity. In this regard, we were very pleased to see a \$2 billion funding increase for the NIH included in the fiscal year 2017 funding bill that was recently passed by the Congress and signed into law by the President.

However, as deliberations begin over federal funding for the next fiscal year, we are gravely concerned that the Administration is proposing to cut NIH funding to \$25.9 billion for Fiscal Year 2018, including the proposed elimination of the Fogarty International Center.

The Fogarty International Center's primary missions are to support and facilitate global health research conducted by U.S. and international investigators, to build partnerships between health research institutions in the U.S. and abroad and to train the next generation of scientists that can address global health challenges. Fogarty plays a critical role in global health security and emergency preparedness, training health professionals to detect and respond to outbreaks, and conducting studies that will help predict and contain future pandemics. All Fogarty grants engage U.S. investigators and more than 80 percent of Fogarty's extramural grant budget goes to U.S. academic institutions to provide salary and other support to U.S. scientists. The ranks of former Fogarty trainees include public health leaders in health ministries across the world, as well as leaders of important regional and multilateral institutions including the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization and UNAIDS. Although Fogarty's financial footprint is small relative to other NIH Institutes and Centers, its impact has been large and its elimination would be costly to our scientific sector and to our nation's public health. The human capital created through Fogarty serves as a diplomatic resource for America, and the program's elimination would come at a cost to our nation's global standing.

In addition to critical research and training in HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and other tropical diseases, Fogarty grants support research in a wide array of disease areas, including brain and nervous system disorders, cancer, cardio- and cerebrovascular disease and stroke, chronic lung disease, diabetes, mental illness, neurological, substance abuse, and developmental disorders. Breakthroughs made possible by Fogarty funding directly benefit U.S. patients and researchers.

We are committed to working closely with members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees as they move forward to develop funding bills for fiscal year 2018, and pledge to advocate vigorously for robust funding for the NIH, and its flagship Fogarty International Center. We would

appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the importance of U.S. investment in biomedical research at NIH, including the Fogarty International Center. Please contact the Infectious Diseases Society of America Vice President for Global Health Christine Lubinski at clubinski@idsociety.org to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,



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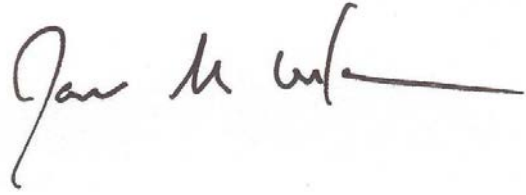
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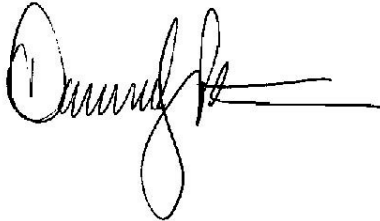
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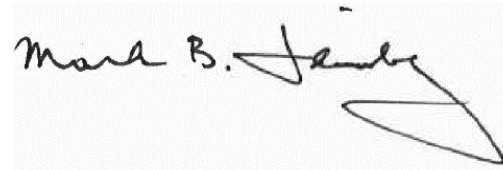
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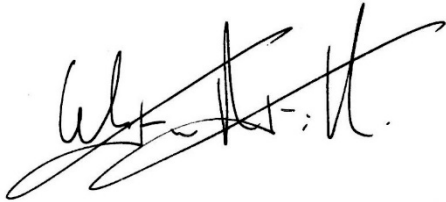
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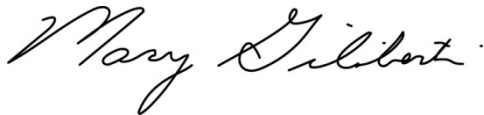
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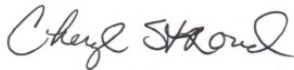
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