



AABB	AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY	FOUNDATION FOR SARCOIDOSIS RESEARCH	PEDIATRIC & CONGENITAL INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOVASCULAR SOCIETY
ADULT CONGENITAL HEART ASSOCIATION	AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY	GO2 FOUNDATION FOR LUNG CANCER	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION ASSOCIATION
ALLERGY & ASTHMA NETWORK	AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY	HEALTHYWOMEN	RESPIRATORY HEALTH ASSOCIATION
ALLIANCE FOR AGING RESEARCH	AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY	HEART FAILURE SOCIETY OF AMERICA	RESTLESS LEGS SYNDROME FOUNDATION
ALPHA-1 FOUNDATION	AMERICAN VASCULAR ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION	HEART RHYTHM SOCIETY	SLEEP RESEARCH SOCIETY
AMERICA'S BLOOD CENTERS	ASSOCIATION OF BLACK CARDIOLOGISTS	HEART VALVE VOICE US	SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR ANGIOGRAPHY AND INTERVENTIONS
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE	ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS	HEMOPHILIA FEDERATION OF AMERICA	SOCIETY FOR CARDIOVASCULAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THORACIC SURGERY	BREATHE AMERICA	HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY ASSOCIATION	SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SLEEP MEDICINE	CHILD NEUROLOGY SOCIETY	JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION	SOCIETY FOR VASCULAR SURGERY
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS	CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY FOUNDATION	LAM FOUNDATION	SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE	CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS	LYMPHANGIOMATOSIS & GORHAM'S DISEASE ALLIANCE	SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY	CONQUERING CHD	LYMPHATIC EDUCATION & RESEARCH NETWORK	SOCIETY OF INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION	COOLEY'S ANEMIA FOUNDATION	MARFAN FOUNDATION	U.S. COPD COALITION
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION	COPD FOUNDATION	MENDED HEARTS, INC.	WOMEN'S HEART ALLIANCE
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION	CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION	MENDED LITTLE HEARTS	WOMENHEART
AMERICAN RED CROSS	DORNEY-KOPPEL FOUNDATION	NATIONAL HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION	
	EMPHYSEMA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA	PROJECT SLEEP	

February 9, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-ED
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the 62 member organizations of the NHLBI Constituency Group we encourage you to finalize an FY 2022 omnibus appropriation bill and include a robust investment in the National Institutes of Health and at least \$3.94 billion for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). A timely Fiscal Year 2022 appropriation is vital to allow the NHLBI to continue addressing COVID-19 while maintaining progress on mission critical research addressing cardiovascular, respiratory, blood, and sleep related research priorities.

Delays in regular annual appropriations funding make it challenging to launch major initiatives and pursue critical scientific opportunities to prevent and develop new treatments for heart, lung, blood, and sleep diseases and conditions. This is important because so much is rapidly

evolving with respect to our understanding of cardiovascular disease, including heart failure and congenital heart disease, novel therapies under development for lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and improved treatment of blood disorders such as sickle cell disease and hemophilia.

The best approach to sustaining incremental progress in research and discoveries is effective planning made possible by recurring, timely, and continued appropriations. This certainty is critical to scientific advancement. Without regular annual appropriations funding, vital basic, clinical, and translational research opportunities to address critical needs related to the long-term impact of COVID-19 across heart, lung, blood, and sleep, including protection of our most vulnerable populations, are compromised, delayed, or potentially curtailed.

Without sustained annual appropriations, NHLBI will not be able to maintain the momentum associated with its spotlight on the disparate effect that COVID has had on vulnerable communities, to continue with research efforts aimed at identifying the causes of and contributors to health disparities, and develop more effective approaches to effectively address, reduce, and ultimately eliminate them. The pandemic also has underscored the need for significant investments in understanding, diagnosing, treating, and treating lung disease as well as preserving lung health.

Given that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths, NHLBI has also taken a lead role in working with others at NIH to support research to reduce the nation's alarming rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, especially among women of color. Without sustained and timely annual funding, NHLBI's programs focused on improving women's health throughout the lifespan, including initiatives concentrated on maternal health disparities, will not keep pace with this epidemic.

Since 1948, the NHLBI has made important progress in the treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease, respiratory diseases, and blood and sleep disorders. Even with this progress, challenges remain as these conditions continue to account for more than 1 million American deaths each year and cost our nation an estimated \$479 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity. An FY 2022 appropriation of \$3.94 billion for the NHLBI would allow the Institute to enhance current programs and pursue promising basic, translational, clinical, and prevention research to better diagnose, treat, and prevent these diseases.

Please contact Valerie Adelson with the American Thoracic Society at vadelson@thoracic.org or John Laughner with the American Heart Association at John.Laughner@heart.org if you have questions or need additional information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Valerie Adelson
Co-chair
NHLBI Constituency Group

John Laughner
Co-chair
NHLBI Constituency Group