

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2015

Dear Colleague:

Please show your support for the National Institutes of Health by joining the Senate NIH Caucus, a new, bipartisan caucus dedicated to supporting this critically important agency.

Each of us has been touched by disease. Half of all men and a third of all women in the United States will develop cancer in their lifetimes, and 600,000 Americans will die of cancer this year. Every 67 seconds an American is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. And our country is in the midst of diabetes and obesity epidemics.

NIH supports scientists in every state who are pursuing treatments and cures to prevent and reduce human suffering. But because of sequestration and flat budgets, NIH has lost nearly 25 percent of its purchasing power since 2003, when adjusted for inflation. As a result of this decline, the nation is missing opportunities to discover cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes, and countless other diseases. Many of our brightest young scientists are choosing to pursue other careers. And our global leadership in biomedical research is being threatened by China and other countries that are investing heavily in this field.

Restored and sustained funding for NIH is critically needed. In addition to the groundbreaking research, NIH directly supports more than 400,000 jobs across the country, and every \$1 of NIH funding generates more than \$2 in local economic growth. NIH research is also vital to the Nation's long-term fiscal health. Alzheimer's disease currently costs the United States an estimated \$200 billion a year. If no progress is made to cure or delay the onset of this disease, the cost will rise to well over \$1 trillion a year in today's dollars by 2050. NIH scientists have accelerated early clinical trials for potential breakthrough Ebola vaccines. In addition, NIH research enhances our national security. NIH also funds research on bioterrorism, new and emerging diseases, and pandemics.

The NIH Caucus will offer an opportunity for senators to educate their colleagues about the importance of NIH. We will also seek a bipartisan strategy to restore the purchasing power that NIH has lost and provide steady, predictable growth for biomedical research in the future.

We hope you will participate in this important effort. If you would like to join the NIH Caucus or have any questions, please contact Elise Ackley in Senator Durbin's office at Elise_Ackley@durbin.senate.gov or 202.224.5519 or Jessica-Phillips Tyson in Senator Graham's office at Jessica-Phillips_Tyson@lgraham.senate.gov or 202-224-9162.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator

Handwritten signature or scribble in blue ink.