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IMMUNOLOGISTS



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September 23, 2014

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Higgins
2459 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

by email to eric.anthony@mail.house.gov and andy.tantillo@mail.house.gov

Dear Representatives DeLauro and Higgins:

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) is pleased to endorse your newly-introduced legislation, H.R. 5580, the *Accelerating Biomedical Research Act*. AAI greatly appreciates this effort to reduce the current fiscal constraints affecting the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which we believe are seriously impeding the advancement of biomedical research and deleteriously impacting the researchers who devote their professional lives to preventing, treating, and curing disease.

As you know, H.R. 5580 would create a budget cap adjustment over the remaining fiscal years of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) to enable the relevant Congressional appropriations committees to restore most of the purchasing power NIH has lost to inflation since 2003. After reaching its \$29.9 billion trigger, the bill would allow for 10 percent increases in each of the first two years and 5 percent annual increases thereafter.

We deeply appreciate your continuing strong support for NIH, and hope that you will consider working to exempt other federal scientific research programs and/or agencies from the budget caps. As you know, advances in biomedical research often depend on, or are buoyed by, discoveries in other scientific fields.

AAI thanks you for your dedication and leadership. Please feel free to contact me (clifford.harding@case.edu), or Lauren Gross, J.D., AAI Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs (lgross@aai.org), if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Clifford V. Harding, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, AAI Committee on Public Affairs