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IMMUNOLOGISTS



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March 9, 2015

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

by email to: [elise\\_ackley@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:elise_ackley@durbin.senate.gov)

Dear Senator Durbin:

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), the largest professional association of immunologists in the world, is very pleased to once again endorse your legislation, S.289, *The American Cures Act*.

AAI greatly appreciates your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which recognizes the urgent need for reliable, sustained increases in funding for biomedical research. By allowing appropriators to exceed caps on discretionary spending to provide increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as well as for other important research agencies and programs (the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense Health Program, and the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical & Prosthetics Program), and by allowing an annual increase of five percent plus inflation for the next six years for each of these agencies/ programs, your legislation would boost essential research funding at a time of extraordinary scientific opportunity. In addition, it would also help assure promising young scientists and students that they can, indeed, pursue a rewarding and successful career in biomedical research in the United States.

As always, AAI - which awarded you the 2013 AAI Public Service Award - is most grateful for your leadership and strong support. Kindly contact me ([clifford.harding@case.edu](mailto:clifford.harding@case.edu)) or Lauren Gross, J.D., AAI Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs ([lgross@aai.org](mailto:lgross@aai.org)), if AAI can be of any assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

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