

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of  
IMMUNOLOGISTS



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March 10, 2014

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

Dear Senator Durbin:

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) is very pleased to endorse your legislation, the *American Cures Act*.

AAI is the largest professional association of immunologists in the world, representing more than 7,800 of the world's leading research scientists and physicians. AAI members are dedicated to understanding the immune system through basic research, resulting in improved means to prevent, treat, and cure disease. Largely through funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and with funding from several other federal agencies, our members are working on some of the most critically important and promising areas of biomedical research, including:

- developing effective vaccines for influenza, HIV/AIDS, and agents of bioterrorism;
- discovering new defenses against re-emerging tuberculosis and drug-resistant bacterial infections;
- regulating debilitating autoimmune diseases such as diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis;
- developing treatments to prevent rejection of transplanted organs and bone marrow; and
- developing novel immune-based therapies for cancer.

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 creating a trust fund that would supplement regular appropriations, your legislation would boost funding for essential research agencies and programs at a time of extraordinary scientific opportunity. In addition, it would also assure promising young scientists and students that they can, indeed, pursue a rewarding and successful career in biomedical research in the United States.

Although AAI is pleased to support this legislation, we are unable to take a position on any offset that might be selected or used.

As always, AAI is most grateful for your leadership and strong support. Kindly contact me or Lauren Gross, J.D., AAI Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs ([lgross@aai.org](mailto:lgross@aai.org)) or (301) 634-7743, if AAI can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Kovacs, Ph.D.  
Chair, AAI Committee on Public Affairs