

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of
IMMUNOLOGISTS



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March 9, 2015

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The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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by email to: jessica_mcniece@appro.senate.gov

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Dear Senator Mikulski:

Executive Director
M. Michele Hogan, Ph.D.

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), the largest professional association of immunologists in the world, is pleased to endorse S.318, the *Accelerating Biomedical Research Act*. AAI greatly appreciates that you have re-introduced this important legislation, which would allow appropriators to exceed the statutory budget caps to provide funding increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We believe that these caps are seriously impeding the advancement of biomedical research and deleteriously impacting the work and morale of researchers who devote their professional lives to preventing, treating, and curing disease.

As you know, S.318 would create a budget cap adjustment for the remaining fiscal years of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) to enable Congressional appropriators to restore most of the purchasing power NIH has lost to inflation since 2003. After reaching its \$29.4 billion trigger, the bill would allow for 10 percent increases in each of the first two years and six percent annual increases thereafter.

AAI deeply appreciates your continuing leadership and strong support for NIH. We do hope, however, that you will consider working to exempt other federal scientific research programs and agencies from the budget caps, since biomedical research benefits greatly from discoveries made in other scientific fields.

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 AAI can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

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