December 21, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressional Leadership:

As Congress debates the issues surrounding deficit reduction, we urge you to support a thoughtful, balanced approach, taking into account the critical importance of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). While we recognize addressing the deficit requires difficult decisions, we must keep in mind the impact that federal investments in biomedical research have on creating jobs, saving lives, reducing health costs, and strengthening the nation.

Discoveries arising from NIH-funded research serve as a foundation for the entire U.S. biomedical industry. NIH is a powerful economic engine, investing more than $31 billion annually in medical research for the American people. In fiscal year 2011, NIH-funded research supported an estimated 432,000 jobs in the U.S. and generated $62 billion in new economic activity, more than double the tax payers’ investment.

After a decade of flat funding, the NIH budget is about 20 percent lower than it was in 2003. Sequestration will reduce NIH funding even more, by over 8 percent. These haphazard cuts threaten the health of sick patients – along with the health of our nation.
We urge you to recognize the value of biomedical research, the jobs it creates and NIH funding. As you work towards a balanced approach to deficit reduction, please thoughtfully consider the economic impact of sequestration on federally-funded biomedical research.

Sincerely,

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress

Roscoe Bartlett  
Member of Congress

Brian Bilbray  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

Donna Christensen  
Member of Congress

William Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Hansen Clarke  
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress

Anna Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

Gerry Connolly  
Member of Congress

Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress

Elizah Cummings  
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Bill Keating
Member of Congress

Peter King
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Dave Loebuck
Member of Congress

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Ed Markey
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Bill Owens  
Member of Congress

David Price  
Member of Congress

Charlie Rangel  
Member of Congress

Laura Richardson  
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress
Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

John Tierney
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress