

May 14, 2010

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

We respectfully request that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies include funding for the newly-enacted Cures Acceleration Network in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

The Cures Acceleration Network (CAN) was enacted as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Section 10409 of P.L. 111-148), signed into law on March 23. CAN is a vital new approach to moving high need medical cures through the development pipeline faster – giving hope to millions of patients and their families throughout the country.

The CAN Act seeks to cut the time between scientific discovery and the development of promising new drugs and therapies. It establishes CAN within the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and authorizes new grant-making mechanisms to more quickly move discoveries from the lab into the next generation of therapies. CAN will help coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders in the drug development process – including patient advocacy organizations and agencies outside of NIH – in order to move discoveries forward. The law also includes the Food and Drug Administration in the work that CAN will undertake, providing a crucial link between NIH and the drug approval process.

We request that, consistent with section 402C(g)(1) of the CAN Act, \$500 million be appropriated for CAN in FY2011 and that the funds be made available until expended. This will allow NIH to begin implementation of CAN, establish the CAN Board, analyze the research needs, and start the process of making the kinds of translational grants that will get new drugs and therapies to those who most need them.

We are greatly encouraged that a commitment has been made to medical innovation and the acceleration of new treatments and therapies for millions of Americans living with disease. We urge you to appropriate funds for the Cures Acceleration Network so that this important life-saving work can get underway as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Abigail Alliance for Better Access to Developmental Drugs  
Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Regenerative Medicine

Alpha-1 Association  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
ALS Association  
ALS Therapy Development Institute  
Alseres  
Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Parkinson Disease Association  
Association for Clinical Research Training  
Association for Patient-Oriented Research  
Association of Academic Health Science Libraries  
AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention  
Batten Disease Support and Research Association  
Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation  
BIO Ventures for Global Health  
Biotechnology Industry Organization  
Californians4cures  
CANN - Community Access National Network  
Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University  
Ceregene, Inc.  
Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
COPD Foundation  
Council for American Medical Innovation  
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Dystonia Advocacy Network  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Easter Seals  
FasterCures  
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Genetic Alliance  
Global Healthy Living Foundation  
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc  
Huntington's Disease Society of America  
Infectious Diseases Society of America

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative  
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
Kakkis EveryLife Foundation  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
Medical Library Association  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Disease Research Interchange  
National Health Council  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National MPS Society  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Parkinson Foundation  
National PKU Alliance  
National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association  
National Venture Capital Association  
NephCure Foundation  
New York Stem Cell Foundation  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
Parkinson Alliance and Parkinson's Unity Walk  
Parkinson's Action Network  
Parkinson's Disease Foundation  
PKD Foundation  
PXE International  
Rett Syndrome Research Trust  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Society for Clinical and Translational Science  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Spinal Muscular Atrophy Foundation  
SRI International  
Student Society for Stem Cell Research  
The AIDS Institute  
The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
Tourette Syndrome Association  
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance