November XX, 2009

The President

The White House

Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned XXX patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions, and industry organizations sincerely thank you for your commitment to “restore science to its rightful place” and for the historic short-term support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) demonstrated through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Our organizations strongly supported that bill because, as you and your administration consistently champion, the future of this nation’s health and economy depends on bold, sustained investment in research.

We write today to urge you to maintain the remarkable scientific and economic momentum ARRA is generating by making NIH a continued high priority in Fiscal Year 2011. We ask you to make permanent NIH’s promising new capacity, avoiding a steep drop-off in its scientific potential and its proven ability to serve as job generator and key component of the R&D platform for the nation’s biomedical and high-tech economies. Robust, sustained funding will ensure NIH-supported scientists can aggressively pursue solutions to the most challenging threats to our health. From cancer to Alzheimer’s disease, autism to heart disease, depression to diabetes, HIV/AIDS to blindness, hope for millions of Americans depends on progress made through research, and promising, high-quality ARRA-funded research is now underway on these health conditions, as well as many more. The knowledge generated by research is also fundamental to transforming U.S. health care from a “sick-care” system to a system focused on preventing disease and promoting wellness. Indeed, we can say unequivocally that historic strong medical research investments have created the proven pathway to improved health, better quality of life, and expanded earnings potential for millions of Americans. Faster progress on preventing, delaying and treating illness is more important than ever as Americans age and become more diverse.

Finally, when NIH invests in discovery, it spurs economic growth. NIH Director Francis Collins recently stated that ARRA grants will create or retain 50,000 jobs in communities nationwide over the two-year period. This is in addition to the impact on supporting businesses that thrive when the biomedical sector grows. Moreover, NIH dollars promote global economic competitiveness – they serve as a powerful catalyst for additional public and private research investment and jobs, and this nation’s commitment to basic science has made America the world leader in medical and scientific discovery. Finally, local and state economies nationwide benefit from NIH investments. Eighty-five percent of the NIH budget is invested in U.S. communities through universities, medical schools, hospitals, research institutes, and innovative small businesses in every state.

The large and diverse research and patient communities, representing millions of individuals, stand united in support of strong NIH funding in FY 2011. With continued gratitude and support, we ask you to invest in NIH, thereby ensuring America capitalizes on the historic opportunity generated by ARRA. NIH funded research gives patients hope, and directly serves the long-term health and economic needs of the nation.

Sincerely,

[undersigned organizations]