



8120 Woodmont Avenue, #750,
Bethesda, MD 20814-2762
(301) 347-9309; (301) 347-9310 (fax)
www.coalitionforlifesciences.org

June 23, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
U.S. Senator
260 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Coalition for the Life Sciences, I thank you for joining us at our biannual CLS Board of Directors meeting on Friday, June 12.

The CLS is very grateful for your unwavering leadership in supporting the NIH, and its mission to advance basic research, and to foster and nurture biomedical researchers and their trainees. We look forward to working with you and your team as you begin to draft the next COVID-19 supplemental and the NIH funding for FY2021. We strongly concur with you, and greatly appreciate your ongoing conviction to extend the regular, steady increases in the NIH appropriation, which you so wisely initiated in 2016. In addition, as we discussed, we consider it an imperative to provide robust supplemental funding to enable recovery of the NIH research endeavor as the nation hopefully begins to escape from the pandemic's first wave. Attached is our letter that provides the rationale for the \$34.5B emergency supplemental package that we consider to be essential for that recovery.

We also share [here](#) the letter 81 American Nobel Laureates sent to Secretary Azar and Director Collins expressing deep concern over the abrupt cancellation of the EcoHealth Alliance grant. The CLS [stands](#) with the Laureates and we hope you may be able to inquire on the reason why this grant, competitively renewed just months ago with an outstanding priority score for scientific merit, was terminated when the work it supports is extremely important to understand how the virus moves with such agility from animals to human hosts.

Finally, we were pleased to hear you support for the nation's immigration policies that support and enhance the biomedical research enterprise. We are of course distressed with yesterday's executive order suspending the issuance of H-1B visas, just one more

The American Society for Cell Biology (301) 347-9300 www.ascb.org	Chan Zuckerberg Initiative www.chanzuckerberg.com	Genentech, a Member of the Roche Group (650) 467-6617 www.genetec.com	The Genetics Society of America (301) 634-7300 www.genetics-gsa.org	Howard Hughes Medical Institute (301) 215-8500 www.hhmi.org	HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology (256) 327-0425 www.hudsonalpha.org	Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (617) 871-4110 www.nibr.org	Society for Neuroscience (202) 962-4000 www.sfn.org
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barrier discouraging brilliant foreign trainees and collaborators from contributing to the U.S. scientific enterprise.

Once again, thank you, and the CLS looks forward to continuing to work with you on these issues and others as they arise.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Yamamoto", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Keith R. Yamamoto, Ph.D.
Chair, Coalition for the Life Sciences
Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Strategy, UCSF
Director, UCSF Precision Medicine
Professor, Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology

Attachments: Nobel Laureate letter
CLS endorsement