

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development and FDA
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development and FDA
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Bishop, Ranking Member Cole and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

As you work to assemble the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations bills, we write in appreciation of your previous support for medical research funding, and respectfully request continued funding of policies and programs that affect persons living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are autoimmune conditions that affect an estimated 3.1 million Americans. Crohn's disease can affect any part of a person's gastrointestinal (GI) tract, while colitis affects the large intestine. Both diseases cause inflammation that leads to numerous health complications, especially when the disease is untreated or undertreated. At the present time, there are no cures for IBD. Treatments include medications, changes to diet, and surgical procedures, with about 70 percent of persons with Crohn's disease and 25 to 30 percent of patients with colitis requiring surgery at some point during their lives. While there are disease-modifying therapies for IBD, not every patient responds to the available treatments and many of those patients respond less over time.

To help advance new therapies, treatments and the development of cures, and to better support the millions of Americans impacted by IBD, we urge you to support important public health, medical research, and therapy development policies within your legislative priorities.

This request builds on provisions included in previous spending bills and seeks to advance priority research and public health goals, including:

- Achieving a better understanding of the incidence and prevalence of IBD, particularly among minority populations,
- Better understanding of the biology of IBD in persons from minority communities and the role such differences play in contributing to health disparities,
- Advancing patient-centered research projects into emerging priority topics, such as the mind-gut relationship and the role of diet and nutrition in maintaining mucosal integrity,
- Convening a scientific workshop supported by multiple National Institute of Health (NIH) Institutes and Centers to identify emerging research priorities, and
- Advancing development of new therapies for Crohn's and ulcerative colitis, particularly treatments for children, including by identifying and using real-world evidence approaches to evaluate treatments indicated for adults for use in children.

On behalf of all persons impacted by IBD, we thank you for your support over the years and we urge you to give strong consideration of initiatives that affect the lives of so many by offering continued support within your respective subcommittees. Should you have any questions, please contact Lizzie Messer in the Office of Congressman Rutherford at 5-2501 or Lizzie.Messer@mail.house.gov, or Christina Parisi in the Office of Congresswoman Maloney office at 5-7944 or (Christina.Parisi@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Also Signed By

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Emanuel Cleaver, II

Gerald E. Connolly

Susan A. Davis

Anna G. Eshoo

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

Andy Levin

Zoe Lofgren

Jerry McNerney

Bill Posey

Bennie G. Thompson

Julia Brownley

Steve Cohen

Danny K. Davis

Peter A. DeFazio

Sheila Jackson Lee

William R. Keating

Daniel W. Lipinski

Roger Marshall, MD

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Lloyd Smucker