

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2021

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

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairperson
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

As you work to draft the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations bills, we respectfully ask you continue investments in policies and programs that support people living with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, known collectively 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 several health complications, especially when the disease is untreated or undertreated. Treatments for IBD include medications, changes to diet, and surgical procedures, with about 70 percent of people 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 effectiveness of treatment decreases over time. There are presently no cures for IBD.

To help advance pursuit of more effective therapies, treatments and ultimately cures, and to better support the millions of Americans impacted by IBD, we urge you to include important public health, medical research, and therapy development policies as you draft the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations bills. This request builds upon provisions included in previous spending bills and seeks to advance priority research and public health goals including:

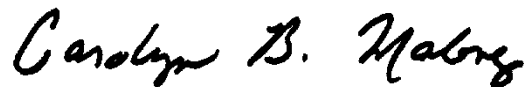
- Reducing the time to receive an accurate diagnosis, especially among minority populations;
- Achieving and retaining remission through treatment options, including personalized approaches to care;
- Developing standardized data elements to facilitate research collaboration and data sharing;
- Improving the understanding of the role diet plays in IBD and other immune-mediated conditions; and
- Advancing development of new therapies for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, particularly treatments for children, including through the use of innovative trial designs and real-world evidence approaches to support regulatory decision-making.

On behalf of all people impacted by IBD, we thank you for your continued support and we urge you to give strong consideration to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact Lizzie Messer in the office of Congressman Rutherford (Lizzie.Messer@mail.house.gov) or Danielle Sumner in the office of Congresswoman Maloney (Danielle.Sumner@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



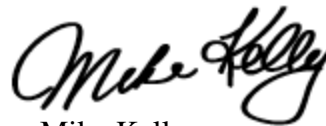
John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Peter A. De Fazio
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



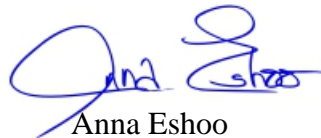
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.
Member of Congress