



December 6, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate LHHS Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Senate LHHS Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole,

We write today as organizations focused on improving supports and services for people with autism to urge you to include several important priorities in the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations legislation. Both the House Appropriations Committee-passed Labor Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) bill and report, and the Senate Appropriations posted LHHS bill and explanatory statement include important priorities that we strongly support and ask you to strength in the final agreement.

Earlier this year a bipartisan group of 79 House Members and 19 Senators wrote in support of substantially increasing the investment in autism research and services. We are grateful that some of the provisions that those Members advocated for were addressed by both the House and Senate LHHS Subcommittees. In September, Representatives Chris Smith and Mike Doyle, the bipartisan co-chairs of the Coalition for Autism Research and Education (also known as the Autism Caucus), wrote to Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole, asking for continued support for the increases provided in the House for autism activities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and at the Health Resources and Services Administration. We strongly support their request and echo their urging for this important funding and language to be included in any agreement that is reached.

Specifically, we strongly support the following provisions:

- \$10 million increase for the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network at the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, as detailed on page 83 of House Report 117-403.
- \$3 million increase for Autism and Other Developmental Disorders at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), with language specifically allocating \$1 million to the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders (LEND) program, as detailed on pages 58-59 of House Report 117-403.

Additionally, we appreciate the attention to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in both the House Report and the Senate Explanatory Statement, most especially the language urging the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to increase its investment in autism research in accordance with the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee's (IACC) Strategic Plan and to address key gaps in research on issues across



the lifespan and disparities in the access to services in the autism community. In the final package, we ask you to include the directive language, found on page 139 of the Senate Explanatory language, which specifically directs NIH to provide a plan with the fiscal year 24 Congressional Justification (CJ) detailing how each Institute that serves on the IACC will address the budget recommendation included in the IACC Strategic Plan for ASD. In light of the current date, we also urge you to include the fiscal year 25 CJ in the directive as well.

We are grateful for your attention to this letter and strongly urge you to include these priorities in a final agreement.

Regards,

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