July 29, 2011

Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby:

We respectfully request the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies support the establishment of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) as a new center in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget.

The mission of NCATS will be to move high-need medical cures through the development pipeline faster – giving hope to millions of patients and their families throughout the country.

NCATS will allow researchers unmatched opportunities to focus on the reengineering of the translational process, and will complement translational research being carried out elsewhere in NIH and the private sector. The establishment of NCATS will connect expertise from the public and private sectors in a spirit of cooperation and precompetitive transparency.

All of the undersigned are encouraged by the demonstrated commitment of NIH to medical innovation and the acceleration of life-saving new treatments and therapies for millions of Americans living with disease.

On behalf of the millions of people in America living with disease, and their families, we urge you to appropriate funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support implementation of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.

Sincerely,

5AM Solutions Inc.
AACSA Foundation
Abigail Alliance for Better Access to Developmental Drugs
Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation
AIDS Action Baltimore
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Advocacy Alliance
Alpha-1 Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
ALS Therapy Development Institute
Alstrom Syndrome International

Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Foundation of America
American Association for Dental Research
American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
American Parkinson Disease Association
American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED)
Amyloidosis Support Groups
Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome/Disorders of Sex Development Support Group
Angioma Alliance
ARPKD/CHF Alliance
Association of Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders, Inc. (AGMD)
Ataxia Telangiectasia Children's Project
Batten Disease Support and Research Association
Bay Area Bioscience Association (BayBio)
Beyond Batten Disease Foundation
Biodesix, Inc.
Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA)
Californians for Cures
CardioDx
CARES (Congenital Adrenal hyperplasia Research Education & Support) Foundation
Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University
Celiac Sprue Association
Center for Medical Genetics, NorthShore University HealthSystem
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Children's Rare Disease Network
Children's Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc.
Children's Tumor Foundation
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Chromosome Disorder Outreach, Inc.
Coalition Against Major Disease (CAMD)
Coalition for 21st Century Medicine
Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue
Colon Cancer Alliance
COPD Foundation
Critical Path Institute
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
CurePSP
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation
Detroit Medial Reserve Corps
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Division of Genetics and Metabolism at Children’s National Medical Center
Dup15q Alliance
Everylife Foundation for Rare Diseases

Expression Analysis
Fabry Support & Information Group
Fanconi Anemia Research Fund
FasterCures/The Center for Accelerating Medical Solutions
FoldRX Pharmaceuticals Inc.
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Foundation Fighting Blindness
Foye Centronuclear Myopathy Project
Genetic Alliance Registry and BioBank
Genetic Alliance
Global Genes Project
Ground Zero Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Hannah's Hope Fund
Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network
HHT Foundation International
Histiocytosis Association
HIV Medicine Association
Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA)
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Infectious Disease Society of America
InnoThink Center for Research in Biomedical Innovation
Inspire
Institute for Basic Research in DD
International Essential Tremor Foundation
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD)
International WAGR Syndrome Association
IPOFA (International Premature Ovarian Failure Association, Inc.)
Jacob's Cure
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Lana'i Community Health Center (LCHC)
Lung Cancer Alliance
Lung Cancer Circle of Hope
Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance
M-CM Network
Michael J. Fox Foundation
MLD Foundation
Moebius Syndrome Foundation
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Adrenal Diseases Foundation (NADF)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
National Ataxia Foundation
National Gaucher Foundation
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Pancreas Foundation
National Parkinson Foundation (NPF)
National PKU Alliance

National Tay-Sachs & Allied Disease Association
NBIA Disorders Association
Neurofibromatosis, Mid-Atlantic
Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation
Pachyonychia Congenita Project
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Parkinson's Action Network
Pediatric Adolescent Gastroesophageal Reflux Association
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)
PKD Foundation
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (USA)
Private Access, Inc.
Purine Research Society
PXE International
RARE Project
RASopathies Network USA
Rett Syndrome Research Trust
Sanfilippo Foundation for Children
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome Foundation
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
Small Biotechnology Business Coalition
SRI International
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association
Team Sanfilippo Foundation
The Addi and Cassi Fund
The ALS Association
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
The Foundation for Prader-Willi Research
The Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
The Kennedy's Disease Association
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The New York Stem Cell Foundation
The Parkinson Alliance
The Progeria Research Foundation
The School of Theoretical Modeling
The Society for Inherited Metabolic Disorders (SIMD)
The Vasculitis Foundation
Trisomy 18 Foundation
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
VHL Family Alliance