

July 10, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Representative DeGette:

On behalf of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the world's first and largest organization focused on every aspect of high-quality, innovative cancer research from bench to bedside, we congratulate you on the House passage of H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures bill. The overwhelming margin by which the bill passed the House reflects the thoughtful, diligent and bipartisan process you led over the past year, and for that you are to be commended.

In this time of unprecedented promise in medical research and innovation, the AACR is especially grateful for the creation of a five-year, \$8.75 billion mandatory NIH Innovation Fund, and the authorization of additional funds for the NIH over the next three years through annual appropriations. This urgently needed funding will go a long way to putting federal funding for medical research back on a path of sustained, predictable growth. It also will allow us to seize the scientific opportunities that lie before us, especially in exciting areas such as precision medicine; and more importantly, it will lead us to a brighter future for the millions of people whose lives have been touched by cancer and all diseases.

We also thank you for creating a Cures Innovation Fund, which would provide an additional \$550 million over 5 years in mandatory funding for the FDA. It is critical that the agency has the resources it needs to carry out its regulatory and oversight functions, and to recruit, develop, and retain highly qualified staff with diverse backgrounds

As the bill moves to the Senate, the AACR looks forward to continuing to work with you and your Senate colleagues to ensure that the NIH and FDA have the resources and tools they need to continue to spur innovation and deliver hope to patients and their family members all across our great nation and throughout the world.

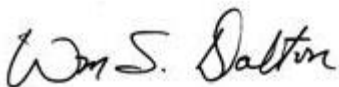
Sincerely,



Jose Baselga, MD, PhD
President



Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc)
Chief Executive Officer



William S. Dalton, PhD, MD

Chair, AACR Science Policy & Government Affairs Committee