

American Academy of Pediatrics American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Lung Association American Thoracic Society Association of Public Health
Laboratories Birth Defect Research for Children Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
(formerly Breast Cancer Fund) Children's Environmental Health Network Endocrine
Society Environmental Working Group Green Science Policy Institute Healthy Schools
Network Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Inc. Learning Disabilities Association
of America Lupus Foundation of America March of Dimes The Myositis Association
National Center for Environmental Health Strategies National Environmental Health
Association Society for Occupational and Environmental Health Society for Women's
Health Research Society of Toxicology The Honest Company The Michael J. Fox
Foundation for Parkinson's Research West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT)

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Labor-HHS-ED Subcm.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS-ED Subcm.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your leadership on biomedical research and public health. As you consider the Fiscal Year 2018 Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies appropriation bill, the undersigned members of the Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) ask you to provide at least \$2 billion above the final fiscal year 2017 level still pending for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We urge Congress to sustain, not curtail, the innovative biomedical research pipeline that generates prevention strategies

s and illnesses such as cancer, autism, asthma, Parkinson's disease, autoimmune diseases and chemical sensitivities. NIEHS research encompasses all types of exposures that can impact human health, including air pollution, endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials, and other contaminants. NIEHS-funded researchers are also advancing our understanding of complicated scientific issues related to exposure research, such as the effects of mixtures, biomonitoring, and developmental vulnerability. The results of NIEHS research provide policymakers with essential, unbiased science to support informed decision-making affecting our health.

The Institute's studies have been instrumental in advancing our new knowledge about the causes of cancer, including the discovery of the first breast cancer susceptibility gene. More recently, by studying blood samples from women in the NIEHS Sister Study, NIEHS epidemiologists have discovered how certain gene modifications, called methylation, in blood cells differ between women who have breast cancer and women who remain cancer free. This research has revealed

how a technique called “blood methylation profiling” holds the potential for early breast cancer detection and risk prediction.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to harmful substances in their environment, and the NIEHS plays a critical role in uncovering the connections between environmental exposures and children's health. Today's pediatric health challenges include chronic conditions such as obesity and asthma and neurodevelopmental disorders including learning disabilities and autism. For all of these health challenges, the environment plays a role in the cause of the disease, the ability to prevent the disease, or the effectiveness of efforts to mitigate the disease consequences. Recent NIEHS funded studies have shown that exposure to traffic-related air pollution (nitrogen dioxide, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀)

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