



July 10, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
FDA, and Related Agencies
2362A Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
FDA, and Related Agencies
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
FDA, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development,
FDA, and Related Agencies
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Submitted via electronic mail

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen, Shelby, Aderholt, and Hoeven, and Ranking Members Lowey, Leahy, Bishop, and Merkley:

The Alliance for a Stronger FDA thanks the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for their positive response to the FY 19 budget request for the Food and Drug Administration. Improving the resources of the FDA will have a meaningful impact on all Americans, both in FY 19 and the years to come.

The Alliance wants to ensure an FDA that is sized and modernized to meet its mandate in the 21st century. The FDA oversees products that represent 20% of consumer spending in the US and affect every American multiple times each day. Its responsibilities are global in scope and form the backbone of the world's economy. And it does all of that at a cost to each American of \$9.00 per year.

The FDA needs sufficient resources to meet its existing responsibilities, prepare for the wave of new science in medicine and food, combat the opioid epidemic and assure U.S. defensive ability against bioterrorism. Those who know the agency best—particularly regulatory professionals—are well-aware that it needs more resources to do its job properly. When the FDA is strong, America benefits.

It is the joint position of the co-signing organizations that the work done by FDA should be treated as a high priority, and that these efforts are deserving of the discretionary funding within your jurisdiction.

As you know, the Alliance for a Stronger FDA includes members from patient organizations, consumer groups and regulated industries. Some members might disagree on the specifics of how appropriations for the FDA should be spent, but we strongly agree that the FDA needs to have appropriations that enable the agency to do its job to protect the public health and ensure that the agency is working efficiently and effectively as it reviews products and implements regulatory policies.

In this appropriations cycle, House appropriators have recommended \$150 million more than the Senate. We support the higher levels of the House version, as well as the Senate's proposals for certain accounts--including critical funding for food safety that was not in the House bill and larger increases in monies for generic drugs and combating opioid abuse.

We respectfully urge you to provide robust funding that includes the higher funding levels that are proposed in the House and Senate bills and ensure that the FDA has the flexibility to use appropriations wisely. We also strongly believe that FDA needs the physical capacity to undertake its many important tasks, and therefore urge you to adopt the House level of funding provided for White Oak expansion.

We look forward to working with you as you complete the FY 2019 appropriations process and stand ready to provide any additional information you need in support of our requests.

Sincerely,

Members of the Alliance for a Stronger FDA and allied FDA stakeholders

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
AdvaMed
AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition
AIDS Action Baltimore
The AIDS Institute
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Foundation
American Bakers Association
American Frozen Food Institute
American Red Cross
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy
Association for Accessible Medicines
American Society of Health-System
Pharmacists
Audentes Therapeutics
Bavarian Nordic
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Biotech Policy Group
Catalyst Healthcare Consulting
Celiac Disease Foundation
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Coalition for Health Funding
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Council for Responsible Nutrition
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
EveryLife Foundation
FasterCures
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance

Friends of Cancer Research
Hemophilia Federation of America
HPS group
International Foundation for Alternative
Research in AIDS
International Myeloma Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
Mars, Incorporated
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for
Parkinson's Research
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Center for Health Research
National Confectioners Association
National Consumers League
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Kidney Foundation
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Treasury Employees Union
Personalized Medicine Coalition
Perrigo Company PLC
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Plastics Industry Association
Research!America
Sugar Association
TMJ Association
U.S. Pharmacopeia