

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

We the undersigned urge Congress to reject devastating funding cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) proposed under the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 "skinny budget," released on March 16, 2017. Of grave concern is the targeted elimination of the Fogarty International Center at NIH. This indiscriminate cut jeopardizes life-saving research required to end devastating global diseases like tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS, as well as malaria, dengue, and Ebola.

The Fogarty Center's central mission is to support training programs and operational research for the next generation of global health scientists, and to foster collaboration between U.S. scientists and their peers abroad. Of particular note is the Fogarty HIV Research Training Program, which builds the multi-disciplinary biomedical, behavioral, and social science research capacity of scientists in the U.S. and abroad in HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention, and care. Since 1988, this program has trained over 2,000 scientists from 100 countries. This program has allowed the U.S. to lead in shaping the global body of knowledge on HIV/AIDS, and support vital research in areas heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS to inform the response globally and in the U.S.

The Fogarty Center is also a leader in funding neglected disease research. For example, the Center has provided \$13.1 million in grant funding to TB research over the last 3 years, ranking it one of the top 25 donors of TB research. The elimination of the Fogarty Center would perpetuate a discouraging downward trend in research funding for neglected diseases like TB.

Though the Fogarty Center's annual budget to achieve such important work is just \$70 million, the cost of eliminating it would be large to the American science sector. The President's FY 18 budget would disrupt over 60 grants on HIV alone, including research focused on the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, HIV epidemiology and surveillance, HIV/TB co-infection, meningitis, and hepatitis C. Fogarty funding for TB research has supported jobs at more than 15 U.S. universities, including the University of Georgia, University of Maryland-Baltimore, Tulane, Baylor, Brown, Johns Hopkins, Boston University, Harvard, University of Minnesota, Berkeley, Cornell, Dartmouth, and Emory. Eliminating Fogarty Center grants would keep American scientists from pursuing vital research to improve the health and welfare of Americans. It would also impede national health security.

Of considerable interest to U.S. national security is the Fogarty Center's Division of International Epidemiology and Population Studies (DIEPS), which conducts research critical to the development and implementation of domestic and U.S. countermeasures for pandemic influenza and potential bioterror agents. Losing DIEPS would hamper our nation's ability to respond to emerging public health threats.

Supporting American science is essential. The Fogarty Center allows the U.S. to be a global leader in the pursuit to end HIV/AIDS, TB, and other diseases through robust science. With public health threats such as Zika, Ebola, and drug-resistant TB, the Fogarty Center strengthens both domestic and global health security. Continuing to cut NIH research funding in any form undermines the prospect of achieving desperately needed breakthroughs in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure for these diseases. We implore Congress to defend against elimination of the Fogarty International Center at the NIH in the President's FY 18 budget proposal and reject any funding cuts associated with supporting scientific research.

Respectfully submitted,

Organizations:

Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam	Center for Integrated Community Empowerment (CICE)
ACRIA	Children's Mercy Hospital
ACT UP / New York	Chisholm Advisors
Action Secours Ambulance (ASA)	Christ Soldiers Foundation
ADAP Advocacy Association	Consortium of Universities for Global Health
Aeras	CORE Group
AIDS Action Baltimore	Community Access National Network (CANN)
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Dairy Veterinary Services
AIDS Institute	DC Fights Back!!
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta	Demand Universal Healthcare (DUH)
AIDS Resource	Desmond Tutu TB Center, Stellenbosch University
AIDS Treatment Activist Coalition	Drug Resistant Tuberculosis Scale Up Treatment Action Team
AIDS United	Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative - North America
Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
American Academy of HIV Medicine	Emory University
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene	Emory University School of Medicine and Rollins School of Public Health
American Thoracic Society	EMPOWER INDIA
Amida Care	Family Clinical Research Unit; Stellenbosch University
Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development	First Comes Love Photo
Asia Catalyst	Duke University School of Medicine
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health	Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB, and Malaria
AVAC	Global Advocates for AIDS, TB & Malaria GAATM (BCARE END TB Initiative)
Baylor College of Medicine	Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)
Baylor College of Medicine-Children's Foundation Malawi	Harvard University
BCARE USA INC - BCARE INTERNATIONAL	Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
Becton Dickinson	Health Education Network
BHR: Science & Technology	Health GAP
BJGMC-JHU Fogarty HIV-TB Training Program	Helping Improve Planning Program Operations and Surveillance
Cascade AIDS Project	
Center for Innovation in Global Health at Stanford University	

Hepc Alliance
HIPPOS Inc
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
HIV Medicine Association
Housing Works, Inc.
Howard Brown Health
Infectious Disease in Davidson
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International AIDS Society
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung
Disease
International Vaccine Institute
ITEACH (Integration of TB in Education & Care
for HIV/AIDS)
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University
Joy Garnett Studio
Kaiser Permanente
Keranetics
La Frontera University
Latinos Salud
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Massachusetts General Hospital
Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical
School
MMV
National TB program- MOH Kenya
National Tuberculosis Controllers Association
New Jersey Association on Correction
NMAC
Population Council
Population health innovations INC
Positive Women's Network – USA
Prevention Access Campaign
Project Inform
Public Citizen
Public Health Department of School of Medicine
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Shelter Resources, Inc. d.b.a. Belle Reve
Sodzo International
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)
South Main Baptist Church
Stellenbosch University
Stop TB Partnership
Thrive Alabama
TB Alliance
TB Proof
Treatment Access Expansion Project (TAEP)
Treatment Action Group
Treatment Education Network
Tuberculosis Trial Consortium, CDC
Tufts University, School of Medicine
UCSF, Savic Laboratory
UCHAPS: Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS
Prevention Service
UHAP / Upstate Hepatitis Awareness Project
UNC Institute for Global Health and Infectious
Diseases
UNC Project Malawi
Unity Fellowship Church
Universidad de Chile
Universidad de La Frontera
University of Cape Town
University of Cape Town and UCLA
University of Chile
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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina Research Project
Lilongwe Malawi
University of Oklahoma
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
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