

TALKING POINTS for the NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

- **Introduce yourself and your group**
 - The constituent(s) should begin the meeting by introducing him/herself, explain where you are from, what you do, they type of research you conduct, the kinds of patients you take care of, etc., and then let the others in the group introduce themselves.
 - Ask the person you are meeting with if he/she is familiar with hematology so you can gauge how to talk about the issues. If the staff person is not familiar with hematology, you can provide some examples of hematologic diseases/disorders and the patients you treat and major accomplishments of the field; if the staff person is familiar, you can briefly share some examples of exciting areas being explored and potential treatments and cures.
- **Indicate the issue you want to discuss:**

1. NIH Funding

- **REQUEST:**
 1. **Provide the NIH with a total funding level of \$41.6 billion in FY 2020.**
 2. **Reach a bipartisan agreement to raise the budget caps, which will allow Congress to support robust, sustained, and predictable funding increases for NIH in FY 2020 and beyond.**

[The constituent in each meeting should take the lead on the issue and identify some local examples or short stories to share of why the request is important.]

- Thank the office for the bipartisan support Congress has shown NIH with the increases in funding provided over the past several years. (Note: There have been 4 consecutive years of increases totaling \$9 billion.). This boost in funding has allowed the NIH to continue all current research programs and begin a number of additional research studies and trials.
- Urge Congress to continue the momentum of robust, sustained, and predictable funding by providing a total funding level of \$41.6 billion for the NIH in FY 2020.
- Ask offices to work in a bipartisan manner to reach a bicameral budget agreement for FY 2020 and beyond that lifts the current caps on discretionary spending imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011. Avoiding sequestration is the only way to achieve long-term, real growth for the NIH and other federal public health agencies.
- The prospect of future flat or reduced final budgets not only would delay progress, but also could serve to discourage the next generation of researchers from careers in science.
- Personalize your message, tell real life examples of how NIH funding has impacted you or your colleagues or your patients.

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- Explain why funding for NIH is so important to the Senator's state/Representative's district by sharing information on the amount of NIH funding that is awarded to the state and how that funding impacts the research you do and/or the patients you treat.
 - Health benefits to the American public as a result of investment in NIH.
 - Impact of a flat or declining budget on your research and patients.
 - Irreplaceable role of federal investment in research.
 - Economic benefits of NIH funding.