

July 9, 2015

The Honorable Congressman Jim Himes
United States House of Representatives
1227 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Representative Himes,

On behalf of Connecticut United for Research Excellence (CURE), the bioscience cluster of Connecticut, we wish to raise our serious concerns regarding Representative David Brat's amendment to HR 6, the "21st Century Cures Act" which would convert the proposed Innovation Fund in the National Institutes of Health to discretionary, instead of mandatory, funding.

The Innovation Fund would provide much-needed stability in financing for the search for new cures; we are not confident that similar gains will be achieved through discretionary spending subject to annual appropriation. The mandatory funding, coupled with meaningful growth in the NIH's baseline budget, will make a profoundly positive difference in discovery, pushing the boundaries of knowledge wider to reveal new targets for the development and delivery of transformative drugs, biologics and medical devices.

We urge you to continue to champion the 21st Century Cures Act and mandatory funding for the NIH as it moves through the legislative process and until it is signed into law.

Thank you again for your consideration of this important legislative issue.

Sincerely,

Susan Froshauer, PhD
President & CEO

Anthony Sabatelli, PhD, JD
Chair, CURE Government Affairs Committee