



611 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 126, Washington, DC 20003

November 30, 2020

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

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor
Health & Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor
Health & Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Co-Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H- 307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health & Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health & Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete Visclosky
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear House-Senate Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Negotiators:

We urge you to support full funding (1) the Kay Hagan Tick Act and Lyme disease research and prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and (2) Lyme disease research at the HHS NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and (3) the Congressionally-Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) at the Department of Defense in the Fiscal Year 2021 Labor-HHS and Defense Appropriations bills.

The President's FY2021 Budget Request for CDC Lyme and tickborne disease programs was \$27.592M, a \$13.6M increase over FY2020 enacted. The House passed \$20M for these programs and the Senate applied \$14M and added another \$5M for implementation of the Kay Hagan Tick Act. We ask for at least \$20M be dedicated to these CDC Lyme disease research and prevention programs including important research for viable diagnostics. We also ask the negotiators to preserve at least the additional \$5M for implementation of the Kay Hagan Tick Act.

The President's FY2021 Budget Request for NIH NIAID for Lyme and tickborne diseases was \$53M, a \$20M increase over FY2020 enacted. The Senate approved an additional \$10M dedicated to Lyme and tick-borne illness:

In fiscal year 2020, NIH is expected to spend \$71,000,000 on Lyme disease and related tick-borne disease research. The Committee understands the importance of research into Lyme disease and related tick-borne illnesses and provides an increase of \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2021.

We ask that the additional \$10M from the Senate for Lyme disease and related tick-borne illness be included in the final bill.

The CDMRP for Lyme and tick-borne disease research was funded at \$7M in the House, the same as the FY2020 enacted level. We request that House-Senate negotiators meet or exceed this funding level given the increasing number of research grant proposals to DOD, many of which go unfunded annually.

Lastly, we appreciate the important report language offered by the House and Senate related to the Department of Health and Human Services on Lyme and tick-borne diseases, including House language that requests the HHS Secretary provide the House Appropriations Committee with "a multi-year plan outlining an initiative to conquer Lyme disease". We ask that House-Senate negotiators ensure the Department provides detailed budget projections for this "initiative to conquer Lyme disease". We formally request that the remaining report language be adopted in the final FY 2021 appropriations bill.

We sincerely appreciate the time, attention and work of Members of the House and Senate to address our funding requests for Lyme and tick-borne disease research.

Sincerely,

Center for Lyme Action
And
Other Lyme organizations and leaders

