



August 15, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair, Energy and Commerce Committee
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on L-HHS
266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via Email: NIHReform@mail.house.gov

Dear Representatives Rodgers and Aderholt:

On behalf of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) Alliance, a coalition of patient advocates, clinicians, academic medical centers, researchers, and biotechnology companies working to educate the public and policymakers on the important science being advanced by NCATS and ensuring Congress provides NCATS with the necessary funding to deliver on its scientific mission, we write to express our deep concerns regarding efforts to eliminate NCATS and the unique and innovative science they are advancing as part of proposals to reform the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

In 2011, Congress established NCATS to accelerate the development of new diagnostics, therapeutics, and cures for common and rare diseases using translational and clinical science. NCATS is the only NIH center or institute charged by Congress with a singular mission to advance translational science to accelerate treatments and cures for all diseases, rare and common, and regardless of which organs or tissues are affected. The Alliance supports increased federal funding and legislation that will enable NCATS to make rapid advances in the development of new clinical and translational science and technologies to speed the development of safe, effective treatments for diseases that affect tens of millions of Americans and cost the American economy billions of dollars each year.

The NCATS Alliance has profound concerns regarding efforts to significantly restructure the NIH through the appropriations process without adequate congressional hearings, stakeholder input, and sufficient data and analysis to justify these proposed changes. We support a bipartisan, scientifically based, and transparent process to improve and enhance the science supported by the NIH. We urge Congress to consider the experience and expertise of the vast group of stakeholders, including patient advocates, clinicians, academic medical centers, researchers, and life sciences companies, to ensure that any reforms enhance and maintain American preeminence in biomedical research and life sciences and will deliver diagnostics, treatments, and cures to common and rare diseases now and into the future.

Congress recognized the need for improved translational science when it created NCATS in 2011. Despite being seriously under-resourced since its inception, NCATS has made tremendous strides in advancing the translational science and technologies needed to move all biomedical research and development much faster toward effective treatments for rare and common diseases.

The NCATS Alliance appreciates the opportunity to provide input as you seek to craft legislation to improve the science supported by the NIH. For questions, please contact NCATS Alliance Executive Director, Kevin Brennan at kbrennan@bluebird-strategies.com.

We thank you for your kind attention to these public comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Brennan', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Brennan
Executive Director
NCATS Alliance