October 25, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby  The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair Vice Chair 
Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations 
U.S. Senate U.S. Senate 

The Honorable Nita Lowey  The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair Ranking Member 
Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations 
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. House of Representatives 

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey, Vice Chair Leahy, and Ranking Member Granger:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to thank you for your ongoing leadership of medical research funding issues and your recent efforts to invest in this important area. On behalf of the research organizations and patient groups representing the sleep, circadian, and sleep disorders community, please continue to provide meaningful resources that facilitate scientific breakthroughs which bring innovative therapies to market, improve patient care overall, and advance scientific understanding of sleep health. As you and your colleagues work to finalize appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2020, please continue to support critical funding increases for federal medical research activities focused on sleep, circadian, and, most notably, sleep disorders.

As you consider final appropriations for FY 2020, please support the following programs and funding levels:

- Please provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with $42.1 billion, a $3 billion increase, (as proposed by the Senate’s FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill). Due to the fact that sleep impacts nearly every system of the body and disease process, please provide proportional funding increases for all NIH Institutes and Centers to further support sleep, circadian, and sleep disorders research activities.

- Please provide at least $1.07 billion for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at CDC for FY 2020 (consistent with the allocation included in the House’s FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill).
  
  o In this regard, please also establish a line-item program for Chronic Disease Education and Awareness with at least $3 million in initial support.

- Please provide the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program with a funding increase of at least $61 million to bring total funding up to at least $840 million annually (consistent with the allocation included in the House’s FY 2020 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill).

- Please provide the Department of Defense Combat Readiness Medical Research Program with $10 million (consistent with the allocation included in the House’s FY2020 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill) and continue to include “sleep disorders” as a priority area of study.
• Please provide the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program with $350 million for FY 2020 (consistent with the allocation included in the Senate’s FY2020 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill). Further, please continue to include “sleep disorders and readiness” on the PRMRP’s annual list of conditions deemed eligible for study.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Thoracic Society
Circadian Sleep Disorders Network
Hypersomnia Foundation
Project Sleep
Kleine Levin Syndrome Foundation
Narcolepsy Network
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Research on Biological Rhythms
Start School Later
Wake Up Narcolepsy