



Solve ME/CFS Initiative

Leading the Fight to cure ME/CFS

Statement by Solve ME/CFS Initiative President and CEO Carol Head on the Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations Funding Package

September 14, 2018

The Solve ME/CFS Initiative (SMCI) applauds today's announcement of the Fiscal Year 2019 Defense and Health and Human Services spending package, as described in the Labor-HHS conference report. SMCI is especially pleased that the Labor-HHS conference report includes a \$2 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as well as **continued funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Chronic Fatigue Syndrome program at \$5.4 million**, despite the administration's recommendations to eliminate this funding. SMCI hopes to see this program's funding increase in the future to reflect the terrible disease burden of myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

Combined with the increases in funding for the CDC and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), SMCI is encouraged by the increasing investments in public health and encourages these federal agencies to utilize these additional resources in combatting the effects of ME/CFS which has been labeled by the CDC as "America's Hidden Health Crisis."

SMCI wishes to express our gratitude to the leaders of the House and Senate Labor-HHS appropriations Subcommittees, Chairmen Tom Cole (R-OK) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Ranking Members Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Patty Murray (D-WA), Appropriations Committee Chairs Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) and Richard Shelby (R-AL), and Vice Chairs Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) for ensuring that ME/CFS funding continued in FY19 and including committee report language with guidance to agencies to improve their programming and leadership in the fight against ME/CFS. We urge the House and Senate to swiftly approve the measure.

We are also extraordinarily grateful to Congresswomen Zoe Lofgren and Ana Eshoo for working tirelessly to elevate investment and understanding for ME/CFS and the 44 bi-partisan cosigners who stood together as champions for up to 2.5 million Americans with ME/CFS. Lastly, SMCI wishes to acknowledge the hard work and extraordinary dedication of our partners and the ME/CFS advocacy community who worked with us to make this victory possible.

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About Solve ME/CFS Initiative

SOLVE ME/CFS INITIATIVE (SMCI) is a non-profit disease organization that works to accelerate the discovery of safe and effective treatments for ME/CFS, strives for an aggressive expansion of research funding that will lead to a cure, and seeks to engage the entire ME/CFS community in research and advocacy. SMCI serves patients and researchers alike, acting as an information and data hub for the ME/CFS community. Our strategic investments in research move the field forward **collaboratively and strengthen the case for increased federal spending.**

www.solvecfs.org