



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

L. Lee Hamm, MD  
*Senior Vice President & Dean, School of Medicine*  
*James R. Doty Distinguished Professor and Chair*

May 14, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

On Behalf of the Tulane School of Medicine, I am writing to thank you for your efforts on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures legislation and to express our gratitude for the efforts to strengthen funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Your work, and the work of the Members on the Committee, to move this legislation forward is greatly appreciated.

Efforts to authorize and provide increased funding for the NIH, including \$10 billion over the next five years in mandatory funding through an NIH Innovation Fund, is especially important as Tulane is a leader in biomedical research through our School of Medicine and School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Funding from NIH is helping Tulane make important strides in research to improve healthcare for chronic disease, especially for underserved populations; enhance aging research; support young scientists in biomedical research; and move toward better detection and treatment of infectious diseases. However, over the last decade NIH funding has remained flat, jeopardizing promising research, which is why your leadership of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Initiative is critical.

We are pleased with the bipartisan efforts that have gone into 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures legislation. This legislation provides us with optimism that Congress is serious about the need to accelerate the development of cures by bolstering the biomedical research enterprise.

Thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Lee Hamm".

L. Lee Hamm, MD  
Senior Vice President & Dean, School of Medicine  
The James R. Doty Distinguished Professor and Chair

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