



July 9, 2015

RE: Letter of support for the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R.6)

Dear Representative:

Bringing a new treatment from the lab to the market currently takes 15 years and costs more than \$1 billion – a tragic reality for the one in three Americans who lives with a deadly or debilitating disease. The 21st Century Cures Act (H.R.6) before the House this week can help reduce both the time and cost of discovery and, in the process, bolster America's status as the world's biomedical innovation capital.

By improving our medical research system, the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R.6) can help make the nation healthier – both physically and fiscally. H.R.6 saves time and money by cutting through the complexity, bureaucracy, and inefficiency of our outdated research infrastructure.

We believe there are five key reasons to support the 21st Century Cures Act:

1. **Spurs Economic Growth and Saves Costs.** Advances in bioscience have driven more than half of the world's economic growth over the past century. By more than doubling average life expectancy on the planet, this created a phenomenal productivity boost. But challenges remain. Of the 10,000 known diseases, only about 500 have effective treatments.
2. **Invests in Our Priorities.** H.R.6 includes crucial funding for both the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which together comprise less than one percent of national outlays. These investments support promising young researchers working on tomorrow's breakthrough discoveries – often in a stage of research for which there is little private funding – and build the capacity necessary to bring these institutions into the 21st century.
3. **Accelerates Scientific Progress.** The life sciences – in convergence with technology, engineering and other fields – are advancing at an unprecedented pace, enabling researchers to tackle challenges that have long vexed researchers and drug developers. The promise is clear, and these advances are coming, whether from American labs or elsewhere.
4. **Makes Collaboration Happen.** H.R.6 tears down roadblocks to sharing the massive amounts of health data generated by researchers and clinicians, much of which is currently locked away in medical-research silos.
5. **Empowers Patients.** H.R.6 gives patients an important new voice in the process by proposing the inclusion of patient representatives in entities created under the Act. It also recognizes a role for patient perspectives to influence regulatory assessments of safety and efficacy for new medicines.

America's long-term strength among nations depends on continued scientific progress. The medical research investments we make today can pay dividends for patients, their families and caregivers far into the future and will help ensure the nation's prosperity.

Sincerely,

Michael Milken
Chairman
Milken Institute

Margaret Anderson
Executive Director
FasterCures, A Center of the Milken Institute