



Coalition of EPSCoR/IDeA States

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June 16, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole:

On behalf of the EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition, thank you for including \$311,865,000 for the Institutional Development Awards (IDeA) program in the draft Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This critical funding represents a 14% increase to the IDeA program and provides needed support to the research capacity of almost half of our states.

The IDeA program is making a huge difference in increasing the competitiveness of researchers and academic institutions in IDeA states, which have nearly 20% of the U.S. population. The IDeA program has led to breakthroughs in post-traumatic stress disorder, asthma, stroke, dementia, multiple sclerosis, cancer, and many other diseases and disorders that affect human health. New centers for clinical and basic research have been established in IDeA states through IDeA funding and IDeA built the first optical fiber network in the North East for research and education.

This increase will continue funding for COBRE and INBRE and the IDeA Clinical and Translational Research award, allow for new awards, address cyberinfrastructure and research training needs, and address the recruitment and retention of talented researchers.

Once again, on behalf of the EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition, we thank you for recognizing the importance of allowing every state to participate in NIH's biomedical research enterprise, and for your continued support of the IDeA program.

Sincerely,

William Gern