

July 9, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), I urge you to **VOTE “NO” on Amendment No. 29 to the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6)** offered by Representatives Dave Brat, Tom McClintock, Scott Garrett, and Marlin Stutzman.

AUCD is network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice for and with individuals with disabilities, their families and communities, including 15 Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRC) funded by the NICHD. IDDRCs work toward understanding why child development goes awry, discover ways to prevent developmental disabilities, and discover treatments and interventions to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

While AUCD supports additional funding for NIH research, this amendment would make the Cures Innovation Fund to support the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) discretionary, instead of mandatory. If discretionary, the Cures Innovation Fund would cut into funding for other important discretionary research and health activities making it more difficult to meet America’s critical health challenges.

Making the Cures Innovation Fund discretionary and under the already austere, sequestered spending caps would undermine programs that help individuals get the most of new discoveries and provide necessary support while Americans await new cures. Harming individuals in such a way is exactly the opposite of the intended goals of 21st Century Cures Act.

Again, I urge you to **VOTE “NO” on Amendment No. 29 to the 21st Century Cures Act (H.R. 6)**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-585-9685 ext. 222. We look forward to continuing to work with you to increase research that leads to better quality of lives for all Americans.

Sincerely,



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