

June 29, 2015

Victory for Healthcare

Congress is clearly listening to patients! The Appropriations Committees of both the House and the Senate each approved Labor Health and Human Services and Education spending bills that responded to impassioned pleas from the [Lupus Research Institute's](#) (LRI) National Patient Coalition and others.

Both Bills Promote Lupus Research and Care

The needs of lupus patients are strongly reflected in both bills with:

- Language submitted by the LRI that addresses the need for an updated Lupus Research Plan to guide the nation's investment in lupus research.
- Advancement of the Lupus Initiative, a professional education program to alleviate racial disparities in lupus that the LRI helped conceive with the U.S. Office of Minority Health and the Office on Women's Health and Office of the Surgeon General. The Lupus Initiative also aims to reduce the time to diagnose lupus by training providers to recognize symptoms and refer patients on to specialist care.
- Funding for the National Lupus Patient Registry program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assess the prevalence and incidence of lupus in this country.

Benefits for All Patients

Also in answer to the powerful voices of LRI patients and hundreds of advocacy groups nationwide, both House and Senate appropriations bills support the nation's biomedical research with increased funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH):

- The House bill allocates a \$1.1 billion increase for NIH.
- The Senate allocates \$2 billion, bringing the NIH budget to the \$32 billion that LRI requested during our annual visit to the Hill for Lupus Advocacy Day.

There's still a long road ahead for legislation to be enacted. Each bill must first be voted on by either the full House or Senate and then reconciled as one joint bill. As the process moves forward, the Lupus Research Institute will keep bringing the needs of the lupus community to the fore and keep you posted on how you can continue to make a difference.

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About the Lupus Research Institute

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI), the world's leading private supporter of novel research in lupus, pioneers discovery and champions scientific creativity as it has successfully demonstrated the power of innovation to propel scientific solutions in this complex autoimmune disease.

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