

MADELEINE DEAN
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3804

March 13, 2020

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The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As your Subcommittee considers the Fiscal Year 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$100 million in funding for Celiac Disease research within the National Institutes of Health.

Over 3 million Americans are afflicted with Celiac Disease, including an estimated 129,000 Pennsylvanians, and the numbers continue to grow each year. There is currently no cure to Celiac Disease, and the only treatment is strict adherence to a lifelong gluten-free diet. Researchers at hospitals, including the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, are prepared to conduct scientific research to improve, diagnosis, treatment, and even find a cure. However, they need the support – backed by funding – of the National Institute of Health.

Currently, Celiac Disease research is severely underfunded in proportion to the scale of the disease. According to an analysis published in 2017 by the American Gastroenterological Association titled, "Disparities Among Gastrointestinal Disorders in Research Funding from the National Institutes of Health," celiac disease receives the lowest amount of NIH funding over a 5-year period. This funding averaged \$3 million annually, or \$1.00 for every person with Celiac Disease. Celiac disease research also received the lowest amount of NIH grants.

To address these shortcomings, and begin working towards a cure for Celiac Disease, we must robustly and continually fund NIH research on the disease.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support for NIH disease research funding.

Sincerely,



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress