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March 9, 2015

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

by email to: jessica_mcniece@appro.senate.gov

Dear Senator Mikulski:

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), the largest professional association of immunologists in the world, is pleased to endorse S.318, the *Accelerating Biomedical Research Act*. AAI greatly appreciates that you have re-introduced this important legislation, which would allow appropriators to exceed the statutory budget caps to provide funding increases for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). We believe that these caps are seriously impeding the advancement of biomedical research and deleteriously impacting the work and morale of researchers who devote their professional lives to preventing, treating, and curing disease.

As you know, S.318 would create a budget cap adjustment for the remaining fiscal years of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) to enable Congressional appropriators to restore most of the purchasing power NIH has lost to inflation since 2003. After reaching its $29.4 billion trigger, the bill would allow for 10 percent increases in each of the first two years and six percent annual increases thereafter.

AAI deeply appreciates your continuing

9650 ROCKVILLE PIKE, BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-3994

The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog.