



NAEVR

National Alliance For
Eye And Vision Research

Serving as Friends of the National Eye Institute

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NAEVR URGES ROBUST, PREDICTABLE, AND SUSTAINED NIH FUNDING:

- **In finalizing Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 National Institutes of Health (NIH) appropriations, Congress adopt the higher House bill funding level of 3.1 percent in a conference LHHS bill, reflecting an inflationary increase.**
- **Congress support an FY2011 NIH increase that ensures robust, predictable, and sustained funding, especially to avoid NIH “falling off a cliff” after stimulus funding expires.**

NIH Funding

- The vision community commends Congress for \$10.4 billion in NIH funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), as well as an FY2009 funding increase of \$1 billion that enabled NIH to keep pace with biomedical inflation. The past six cycles of flat funding/inflation has resulted in a 14 percent loss in purchasing power.
- In FY2009 and FY2010, NIH is essentially funding biomedical research at a level of \$37 billion (regular appropriations plus one-half of \$10.4 billion stimulus). To fully leverage and maintain the momentum of ARRA-funded research and to avoid NIH “falling off a cliff” after stimulus funding expires, NAEVR urges Congress to ensure robust, predictable, and sustained NIH funding in FY2011 appropriations.

National Eye Institute (NEI) Funding

- The \$174 million in ARRA funding for the National Eye Institute (NEI) within NIH has supported 377 new grants that range from determining the genetic basis of eye disease to developing treatments that restore sight. The \$22 million increase in FY2009 appropriations has also enabled NEI to fund key investigator networks studying new diagnostics and treatments. This infusion of new funding is important, as NEI had lost 18 percent of its purchasing power over the past six funding cycles.
- NEI’s FY2009 funding level of \$688 million still reflects just one percent of the \$68 billion annual cost of eye disease and vision impairment. 38 million Americans age 40 and older experience blindness, low vision, or age-related eye disease, such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, or cataracts. This number will grow to 50 million by year 2020.
- In 2009, Congress commended NEI’s leadership in basic and translational research through H. Res. 366 and S. Res. 209, which recognized NEI’s 40 years as the NIH Institute that leads the nation’s commitment to save and restore vision and designated 2010-2020 as the *Decade of Vision*.