

DATE

The Honorable (full name)
United State Senate/House
Washington, DC ZIP

Dear Senator/Representative (last name):

RE: H.R.244 - Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017

On behalf of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), I applaud your efforts that led to the bipartisan passage of H.R.244, “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017” signed by President Trump last Friday. The AASM is the leading professional society dedicated to the promotion of sleep health, with a nationwide membership of more than 10,000 physicians, accredited member sleep centers and other allied health care professionals. We commend your hard work which ensures that the U.S. government will continue to operate through September 30th and increases the current fiscal year funding by \$2 billion for the National Institutes of Health.

This NIH funding is foundational to our nation’s success as a medical, science, and technology innovator. The scientific discoveries achieved through NIH-supported research lead to innovative medical products, services, and strategies that improve health and save lives.

For example, we spend one third of our lives asleep, and that third has profound implications for our health, alertness, productivity, safety, and happiness during the remaining two thirds. Research on sleep and biological rhythms -- a young field with incredible potential for fundamental public health impact -- depends critically on NIH support.

In the months ahead I hope that our government will display similar bipartisan support for the NIH when federal budget priorities for the 2018 fiscal year are considered.

Again, thank you for passing this important legislation. Please direct any questions or comments you may have to Jerome A. Barrett, AASM Executive Director, at jbarrett@aasmnet.org or 630-737-9700.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Chervin, MD, MS
President