The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
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 Committee  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you give full and fair consideration to the below requests so that we can move the needle forward in better understanding Lupus with the goal of finding a cure.

As you know, Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that results in the body attacking its own healthy tissue, including one’s organs and joints. Often difficult to diagnose, as symptoms of the disease not only can mimic symptoms of other known auto immune diseases but can also differ from patient to patient, the Lupus Foundation of America estimates that nearly 1.5 million people are living with Lupus in the United States. That said, our nation’s researchers focusing on Lupus rely on critical funding from our nation’s leading public health institutions – the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For that reason, I’d urge the Subcommittee to once again provide an incremental increase in funding for the NIH, specifically prioritizing funding within the NIH’s Accelerating Medicines Partnership RA/Lupus budget, as well as provide $8 million for the CDC’s National Lupus Patient Registry. Together, these two requests work to ensure that our biomedical researchers can continue working towards advancements in new therapies, surveilling patient data and trends, as well as further our understanding of the disease itself.

What’s more, I urge the Subcommittee to recognize that Lupus disproportionately affects women in ethnic and minority populations and its symptoms among these individuals tend to be much more severe. As such, I request that the Subcommittee respectfully provide $2 million to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health’s Lupus Outreach and Clinical Trial Education Program (Lupus Program) so that we can continue to sustain the great strides we’ve made in reaching and helping individuals in minority populations grappling with Lupus.

To that end, I thank you for giving full and fair consideration to my requests. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact my Legislative Assistant, Laney Copeland, laney.copeland@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-4272.

Sincerely,

Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress