



UAW Local 4121

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November 13, 2007

Representative Jim McDermott
U.S. House of Representatives
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McDermott:

UAW Local 4121 is the Union representing over 4,000 Academic Student Employees (ASEs) doing research, teaching and service work at the University of Washington. We are writing to urge you to support the \$30 billion budgeted for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education bill (H.R. 3043 or S. 1710).

As you probably know, the University of Washington receives approximately \$1 billion worth of Federal grant funding, much of it from the NIH, to support its research mission. As part of that overall funding, NIH grants fund the vast majority of the basic and medical science research taking place at UW. The research performed under these grants furthers our understanding and treatment of infectious diseases, heart disease, cancer, as well as many other important areas of science. As such, this type of research is critical to the health and well-being of our society, and makes our University – and hence our higher education system – internationally competitive. A significant amount of the actual research work of these NIH-funded projects is carried out by the more than two thousand ASEs we represent who are employed as Research Assistants. If NIH funding continues to decline, this cutting edge work performed by our members and the larger benefits derived from it will be significantly compromised.

Therefore, we hope that you will take the necessary steps to reverse the current funding trend at NIH and vote to support the FY2008 Labor-HHS-Education conference report.

Sincerely,

David Parsons, President
UAW Local 4121

cc: Washington State Representatives
Washington State Senators
President Bush