



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

December 1, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support of the 21st Century Cures Legislation

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Reid, Chairman Alexander, and Ranking Member Murray:

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine writes in support H.R. 34, the “21st Century Cures Act.”

The Alliance is a coalition of national medical societies representing specialty physicians in the U.S. and is dedicated to the development of sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. We greatly appreciate your leadership to improve the discovery, development and delivery that support continued innovation in our health care system.

The Alliance has watched the development of legislation in this area and is particularly interested in the following provisions:

- Additional funding and reauthorization of the National Institutes of Health (NIH);
- Establishing a streamlined process for qualifying and utilizing surrogate endpoints in clinical research trials;
- Permitting data sharing without relinquishing data ownership;
- Creation of an innovation fund to foster the discovery;
- Development, and delivery of medical innovation;
- Standardizing data in clinical trial registry data bank;
- Streamlining the institutional review board (IRB) process;
- Fostering telemedicine/telehealth; and
- Promoting interoperability.

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The Alliance appreciates this ongoing process toward the final passage of bipartisan legislation and stands ready to work with you on this initiative.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions