

## Castle: NIH Funding Falls Short -- July 19, 2007

Washington, DC -- Last night Delaware Congressman Michael Castle and his colleagues offered an amendment to provide a much-needed increase in federal funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Democrats' House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008 fails to keep up with inflation. The amendment to close this gap at the NIH unfortunately was blocked by Democrats and failed 181-249.

### The Democrats

have characterized the funding for NIH as a 3.6% increase over current funding levels -- but in reality this bill reflects almost the smallest increase for the NIH in 38 years when it was cut by 4.6% in 1970. In fact, the bill requires the NIH to shift funds to both the Department of State and Health and Human Services. The amendment would have allowed the NIH to keep those funds for medical research.

"We slow the pace of progress at a time when the baby boom generation is aging, and the prevalence and cost of chronic diseases - such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and age-related neurological diseases - will increase dramatically.

### "The House

missed an opportunity to properly fund the National Institutes of Health. I disagreed with the mischaracterization of the increase of federal funding for NIH programs, when so much of that money will actually be shifted to other agencies.

The NIH fuels innovation, generates economic growth, and preserves our nation's role as the world leader in medical and health research. We cannot afford as a nation to restrain the progress of science and medicine, and I am committed to getting those dollars to the National Institutes of Health," Castle said.

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