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July 9, 2015

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2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
United States House of Representatives  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Representative DeGette,

On behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the national medical specialty society representing more than 36,000 physicians specializing in psychiatry, we are writing to support H.R. 6, the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act of 2015*. APA shares your goals of modernizing available treatment and improving the discovery, development, and delivery of medical innovations through your proposed reforms and investments in the nation’s research apparatus.

The reduction of federal and private investment in psychiatric medications is greatly concerning. For example, for the past five years, the National Institutes of Health’s appropriations have not kept pace with biomedical inflation. Sequestration has further eroded the NIH’s ability to fund new research opportunities and develop the careers of young biomedical researchers. Private investment in psychiatric research and innovation has waned due to regulatory uncertainty, length of time to bring treatments to market, and the intrinsic complexity of psychiatric disorders, among other reasons. In addition to other noteworthy reforms promoted by H.R. 6 that seek to address these problems, we are deeply appreciative for provisions that would reauthorize the NIH at funding levels that would represent significant increases and would establish \$8.75 billion over the next five years in mandatory funding through an NIH Innovation Fund. This investment will help rebuild our nation’s biomedical research capacity.

We urge a vote in favor of H.R. 6 as it heads to the floor of the House of Representatives. Thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Renée Binder, M.D.  
President

Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A.  
CEO and Medical Director