



COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATS
ENERGY & COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement by Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr.
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Full Committee Markup
“H.R. __, 21st Century Cures Act”**

May 19, 2015

Thank you Chairman Upton. The 21st Century Cures Act will have great value to patients and their families. Overall, its policies will bolster biomedical research, advance cutting edge science, and further improve the process by which treatments are discovered and approved. Researchers, companies, patient groups, and providers alike all agree that this bill is a good step forward for our health care system.

The NIH funding included in this bill – \$10 billion over the next 5 years – is the most promising provision before us today. These dollars will further basic research – which is the foundation of every drug and device brought to market – and help improve the health and lives of all Americans.

It is also important to note that this funding will serve as an effective tool to further strengthen our economy. It has been estimated that every \$1 of NIH funding generates about

\$2.21 in local economic growth, and, in 2012, NIH-funded research supported an estimated 402,000 jobs all across the U.S.

While the underlying policy is complete, the issue of pay-fors is still outstanding. Offsets always prove to be difficult. The final product must include offsets that are mutually agreeable to Democrats and Republicans.

I hope you will continue to work with me to ensure that the 21st Century Cures Act is appropriately offset with the full support of the Democratic Caucus. Thank you.