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Alliance Applauds House Ag/FDA Appropriations Subcommittee Proposal to Continue Funding FDA at Current Levels

Silver Spring, MD---Today, the Alliance for a Stronger FDA--which unites consumers, patient groups and industry in advocating for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) funding--applauded the House Agriculture and FDA Appropriations Subcommittee's FY 18 [funding plan](#) for FDA. The subcommittee proposes to continue FDA's budget authority (BA) appropriation at the FY 17 levels and adopt user fee funding consistent with legislation moving through Congress now. In addition, the Committee appropriated \$60 million to carry out selected activities under the "21st Century Cures Act," which became law in December 2016.

"Despite an exceedingly difficult funding environment, the House subcommittee has, in effect, said: FDA performs essential services and cannot fulfill its responsibilities without resources at least as great as the agency had in FY 17," said Troy Zimmerman, Alliance President and Vice President for Government Relations at the National Kidney Foundation. "A strong FDA--capable of fulfilling its broad mission--is a critical component of our nation's health and safety."

Under the House proposal, marked up in subcommittee today, the FDA would receive \$2.76 billion in BA (taxpayer funding) and an overall budget of \$ 4.473 billion (excluding tobacco user fees). Even though the FDA Reauthorization Act (FDARA), which renews four major user fee programs, is not yet law, the subcommittee chose to appropriate user fees consistent with the legislation, given the expectation that Congress will enact it this year.

"While we are grateful to the subcommittee for its support of FDA, we look forward to continued fruitful discussion with the Congress about FDA's increasing responsibilities and the pressures on the agency to build and retain critical medical and scientific personnel," said Cynthia Bens, Immediate Past President of the Alliance and Vice President, Public Policy at the Alliance for Aging Research. "We are particularly concerned that there be funding to pay for new non-user fee activities contained in the pending FDARA legislation."

FDA not only has ultimate responsibility for ensuring the safety for millions of products that represent about 20% of American consumer spending, but also has a rapidly expanding role in food and drug safety and innovative medical product development. To ensure that the agency can secure and retain the highly trained workforce required to carry out this mandate, more than 80% of the FDA's budget is dedicated to its personnel needs

"We are concerned that should the FDA, as a consequence of downward pressures on federal spending, become significantly underfunded, the agency will have to choose among important public health priorities," said Kristin Stephenson, Alliance Vice President and Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She added: "Beyond the needed

investment in FDA’s core functions, sufficient funding is necessary to spur innovation and provide critical oversight initiatives for drugs, biologics, and food.”

The Alliance for a Stronger FDA is a multi-stakeholder advocacy group that unites patient groups, consumer advocates, biomedical research advocates, health professionals and industry to work to increase FDA’s budget authority appropriations.

The Alliance is known for its detailed analysis of the FDA budget and has included a chart (below) that compares the House subcommittee proposal to FY 17 appropriations and the President’s FY 18 request. More information about the Alliance can be found at www.StrengthenFDA.org.

| | FY 17 | FY 18 President’s Request | FY 18 House S/C Proposal | FY 18 House Compared with FY 17 | FY 18 House Compared with Request |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| BA Salaries and Expenses | 2,759,378,000 | 1,888,489,000 | 2,759,378,000 | 0 | 870,889,000 |
| Prescription Drug User Fees | 754,524,000 | 1,262,182,000 | 937,434,000 | 182,910,000 | 324,748,000 |
| Medical Device User Fees | 126,083,000 | 439,001,000 | 193,291,000 | 67,208,000 | 245,710,000 |
| Human Generic Drug User | | | | | - |
| Biosimilar Product User | 323,011,000 | 615,746,000 | 493,600,000 | 170,589,000 | 122,146,000 |
| Animal Drug User Fees | 22,079,000 | 86,736,000 | 54,000,000 | 31,921,000 | -32,736,000 |
| Animal Generic Drug User | 23,673,000 | 70,252,000 | 24,142,000 | 469,000 | -46,110,000 |
| Tobacco Product User Fees | 11,341,000 | 18,475,000 | 12,100,000 | 759,000 | -6,375,000 |
| Tobacco Product User Fees | 635,000,000 | 672,000,000 | 672,000,000 | 37,000,000 | 0 |
| | 4,655,089,000 | 5,052,881,000 | 5,145,945,000 | 490,856,000 | 93,064,000 |

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