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Alliance “Applauds” President’s FY 19 Budget Request for FDA Proposal Recognizes FDA As a Provider of Core Governmental Services

Silver Spring, MD -- The Alliance for a Stronger FDA -- which unites consumers, patient groups and industry in advocating for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) funding -- today thanked the Trump Administration for an FY 19 budget request that would provide a significant funding increase for the FDA. The Alliance said the increase would enable FDA to carry out important programs that will advance public health, public safety and an innovation economy.

“The Alliance applauds the proposed budget and will now work with Congress to assure that FDA’s growing responsibilities are better funded,” said Kristin Stephenson, Alliance President and Chief Policy & Community Engagement Officer at the Muscular Dystrophy Association. “We have been concerned that FDA might have to continue to choose among important public health priorities. This budget, if adopted by Congress with funds available under the recent budget deal, would provide FDA with substantial additional funds needed to serve the American people.”

Under the President’s request, FDA’s budget authority (BA) appropriation would grow by \$473 million, with most of the monies targeted for major expansion of FDA’s capabilities in advancing the availability of innovative drugs and medical devices. This is the largest increase ever proposed for the FDA.

“This budget represents an enormous vote of confidence in FDA, a recognition that the agency is doing its job well and making a critical public health difference,” said Ladd Wiley, Executive Director of the Alliance for a Stronger FDA. “We thank President Trump for this clear sign of his appreciation and support for the FDA’s work and the leadership of Commissioner Scott Gottlieb.”

“Beyond the needed investment in FDA’s core functions, sufficient funding is necessary to spur innovation and provide critical oversight initiatives for drugs, biologics, medical devices and food,” said Troy Zimmerman, Immediate Past President of the Alliance and Vice President for Government Relations at the National Kidney Foundation. “FDA not only has responsibility for ensuring the safety 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.”

Food safety programs would receive a small increase, despite increasing agency responsibilities for the safety of the American food supply. “The funding of food safety programs clearly needs a boost given the FDA’s multi-year responsibility for implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and the continuing challenges in this area,” said Thomas Gremillion, an Alliance Board member and Director of the Food Policy Institute at the Consumer Federation of America. “FSMA represents a fundamental change in philosophy and programming, and the agency needs more resources to effectively implement the law.”

“Unlike most federal agencies, more than 80% of the FDA’s budget is dedicated to its personnel needs,” said Cynthia Bens, an Alliance Board Member and Senior Vice President, Public Policy at Personalized Medicine Coalition. “The President’s budget request will help ensure that the agency can secure and retain the highly trained workforce required to carry out its mandate.”

The Alliance for a Stronger FDA is a multi-stakeholder advocacy group that unites more than 150 patient and consumer groups, biomedical research advocates, health professions societies, individuals and industry to work to increase FDA’s budget authority appropriations.

The Alliance will provide a detailed analysis of the FDA budget once it has fully reviewed the President’s request. More information about the Alliance can be found at www.StrengthenFDA.org.