

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Statement for the Record Prepared by Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09)
Submitted to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Health Subcommittee

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First, let me thank Chairman Pallone and Chairwoman Eshoo for calling this important hearing on the future of biomedicine. The need to continue investing in biomedical research is extremely crucial in retaining our nation's position as a leader in discovery and innovation.

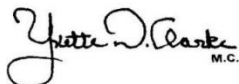
I am proud of the work the House Energy and Commerce Committee has done to explore and address various aspects of biomedical research and development. With this year marking the landmark 20th anniversary of the publication of the Human Genome Project, providing the first look at the human genome's nearly complete sequence, scientists have since then been able to build upon that discovery and yet better understand the biological processes that govern human health and disease.

While we will examine several strong legislative proposals today, I want to highlight my own, H.R. 4124, the National Biomedical Research Act. This bill would provide the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with predictable, supplemental funding for biomedical research. This legislation would supplement yearly appropriations for basic research, disruptive innovation, addressing burdensome diseases, early career scientists, improving diversity, regulatory science, and medical product surveillance. Furthermore, this legislation would provide researchers with the vital resources they need to continue diagnosing, treating, and preventing a myriad of diseases — many of which disproportionately impact communities of color. This is why, funding for institutions like SUNY Downstate Medical Center, in my district is of the utmost importance.

It is unfortunate that, in this day and age, racial and ethnic minorities are underrepresented in both clinical trials and biomedical research. While there are many barriers to inclusive participation, we must allocate funds so that diverse biomedical datasets are available to identify the impacts some diseases and conditions have on certain racial and ethnic groups. Without proper representation, the data is disproportionately skewed to further exacerbate health disparities.

We must always remember sufficiently funding medical research is paramount to the health and safety of the American public. Re-establishing our commitment to supporting scientists and doctors dramatically improves their ability to safeguard our communities against the devastating effects of health care disparities. This legislation is an opportunity to protect American families proactively, and I believe it is incumbent on us, as members of Congress, to ensure this happens.

Sincerely,



Yvette D. Clarke

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Member of Congress