

**TEMPLATE FOR RSA MEMBER LETTERS  
TO THEIR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
REGARDING THE PROPOSED CREATION OF THE NEW INSTITUTE**

There follows a prototype letter which may be used by RSA members to contact their Congressman and Senators to express reservations about the creation of the proposed new NIH institute. Please note that because of security screening Congressional postal mail delivery is often delayed several weeks; it is important that you fax or email your letters to your Members of Congress. Fax numbers and email addresses are easily found at the [www.House.gov](http://www.House.gov) or [www.Senate.gov](http://www.Senate.gov) by selecting your Members from the drop-down at the top of the page.

October xx, 2011

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
<Address>

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

I am **[describe who you are, where you conduct your research, the area in which you concentrate, and the importance of the research you conduct]**.

As you may be aware, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) continues to consider the details of a plan to form a single institute that is dedicated to the study and treatment of substance use, abuse, and addiction. Research portfolios that are currently part of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and other institutes could be moved to the new institute. In addition, research currently being conducted at NIAAA and NIDA could be exported to other NIH institutes and centers.

I am concerned that this proposal could jeopardize the tremendous breakthroughs in alcohol research that have occurred in recent years. Some of my more specific concerns are: **see the attached talking points and choose a few that are of particular consequence to you]**.

I request that Congress look extremely closely at this ill-conceived proposal to create a new institute at NIH. In addition, Congress must ensure that NIH and the HHS Secretary comply with the controlling requirements of the NIH Reform Act. I would be pleased to act as a resource for you and your staff on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

**[name]  
[title]  
[institution]**