



November 12, 2015

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**IN MEMORIAM**

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The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
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Justice, Science and Related  
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Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
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Justice, Science and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Honda  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
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Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Mikulski, Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda,

I am writing on behalf of Research!America, a public education and advocacy alliance working to accelerate medical progress, strengthen our nation’s public health system, and bolster American scientific capacity. We appreciate your stewardship over the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, which fund agencies and programs crucial to a secure and prosperous future for the American people. As you consider funding for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), we ask that you provide at least \$7.7 billion to the National Science Foundation (NSF).

This past year has been an extraordinary one for NSF, our country’s top science agency. NSF-funded research has led to recent discoveries in bacteria survival in harsh arctic ice; mathematical and behavioral models to make vehicle and pedestrian traffic safer and faster after winter storms; and transparent solar energy cells that can be placed on nearly any surface and can tap directly into the energy grid. These are important, exciting breakthroughs that promise to shape how we address lethal, drug-resistant bacteria, save lives in difficult climates, and equip our country with a new source of renewable energy.

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NSF provides over 11,000 grants annually, translating to over 300,000 American jobs and more than \$27 billion in economic growth. And NSF innovations and technological breakthroughs have made our society safer, healthier and more connected. Hallmark discoveries funded by NSF include bar codes, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and the Internet. The social science research from NSF has led to the development of effective social services, such as anti-cyberbullying and conflict resolution programs for children and at-risk populations. These and other important discoveries also support our national defense; NSF-funded research has led to nanotechnology, fiber optics, and universal sign language, all important tools for our military as they preserve our nation's safety.

But there is so much more to be discovered. Many scientists are unable to receive NSF grants to support their research, not because there has been a decline in impactful research proposals, but because available funding is stretched so thin.

Research!America appreciates the difficult task facing the subcommittee as it seeks to simultaneously confront the budget deficit, strengthen the United States, and promote the wellbeing of Americans. We firmly believe that fostering science and technology-driven innovation is a sound strategy for addressing all three objectives, and that robust funding for NSF should be considered a top strategic priority for the United States. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Mary Woolley  
President and CEO