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June 5, 2009

Members of the U.S. Congress
Capitol Hill
Washington, DC

Dear Representatives and Senators:

Robust funding for the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and National Science Foundation is vital to improving the health of Americans, strengthening the economy and implementing health reform. The Research!America alliance is looking to Congress to make certain that the U.S. continues to adequately invest in these agencies in FY 2010.

Research!America recommends a funding increase of at least 10% for the National Institutes of Health in FY2010 with the goal of reaching an annual appropriation of \$40 billion as soon as possible. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided an unprecedented infusion of funding for NIH that is supporting high-quality research and jobs in universities, businesses and other organizations across the U.S. An increase in the base appropriation greater than the 1.5% proposed by President Obama is essential to assure that the nation benefits fully from the economic impact of this investment by preserving new jobs and sustaining research.

Research!America also advocates increasing CDC's core program budget by \$2 billion, establishing a base funding level of \$405 million for AHRQ and increasing the NSF budget by 8.5% to \$7 billion.

Strong, sustained investments in these agencies are critical now because:

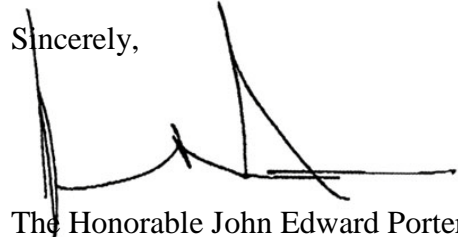
- In order to thrive in the global economy, the United States must continue to lead in technology and innovation, which is a proven pathway to a strong economy;
- Research is the foundation upon which innovation and technology take place;
- Strong investment in research funded by the NIH, CDC, AHRQ and NSF will rapidly turn into solutions for health care; and
- Research is fundamental to transforming U.S. health care from a "sick care" system to a system focused on preventing disease and promoting wellness.

1101 King Street
Suite 520
Alexandria, VA 22314-2960
P 703.739.2577
F 703.739.2372
E info@researchamerica.org
www.researchamerica.org

Ensuring robust funding for NIH, CDC, AHRQ and NSF in the years to come will require bold action, but the return on the investment will be invaluable. In the words of President Obama, “There is no finish line in the work of science. The race is always with us – the urgent work of giving substance to hope and answering those many bedside prayers, of seeking a day when words like "terminal" and "incurable" are finally retired from our vocabulary.”

We look forward to working with you to realize the hopes and expectations of the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Porter". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable John Edward Porter
Member of Congress 1980-2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Woolley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Woolley