

# Research!America

AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH®

November 10, 2008

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Mr. John Podesta  
Presidential Transition Team  
Washington, DC 20270

Dear Mr. Podesta,

Research is a key solution among many to the economic and health care crises in the U.S. As the nation's largest alliance of organizations dedicated to research, leadership and staff at Research!America offer our expertise to you and the entire Obama-Biden transition team.

Research!America has been working to make research a higher national priority for 20 years. Our alliance is composed of 500 member organizations representing 125 million Americans.

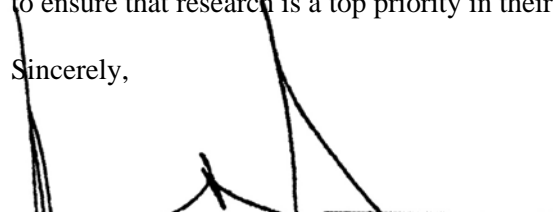
Among the many resources that Research!America can offer, our longitudinal public opinion data shows consistent, strong support for the U.S. as a leader in research. In a very recent national poll, 73% of Americans say that research to improve health is part of the solution to rising health care costs.

Despite this support, we estimate that only 5.5 cents of every dollar spent on health in the U.S. is invested in research. Funding at the National Institutes of Health and other federal research agencies has been stagnant. Research allows Americans to live longer, healthier, more productive lives and shows us how to achieve better quality and lower-cost health care. Innovation is the driving force of our economy and a renewed commitment will ensure America's place at the leading edge of global science and technology.

Now is the time to reverse the trends and invest in research. Effective leadership to oversee the U.S. research portfolio is essential. We encourage President-elect Obama to identify a candidate to be the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy immediately and make the position cabinet-level.

For more information about Research!America, contact Stacie Propst, PhD, vice president, science policy & outreach, at [spropst@researchamerica.org](mailto:spropst@researchamerica.org) or 703-739-2577, ext. 43. We look forward to working with the Obama-Biden transition team to ensure that research is a top priority in their administration.

Sincerely,

  
The Honorable John Edward Porter  
Chair, Research!America  
Member of Congress 1980-2001



Mary Woolley  
President, Research!America

c: Valerie B. Jarrett, Peter M. Rouse