



December 12, 2008

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President-elect Barack Obama  
Presidential Transition Team  
Washington, DC 20270

Dear President-elect Obama:

Representing 500-organizations and 125 million Americans who believe science and research that improves health should once again be a national priority, Research!America recommends to your Administration and the incoming 111<sup>th</sup> Congress a timely investment in NIH, CDC, NSF and AHRQ as a part of the economic recovery package. This critical investment will produce immediate and long term dividends that protect good jobs, stimulate local economies across the nation, provide data to help make health care reform evidence-based and expand the research that is the foundation for innovation and global competitiveness.

For five years now, the U.S. has turned away from science and engineering and has been living off past investments. If this trend continues, it will take decades, if it is possible at all, to recover the lost human capital and infrastructure that keeps the U.S. at the leading edge of knowledge creation and the economic growth it generates. With a relatively small outlay, researchers around the nation can continue work currently put on hold. The resulting innovations in health will assure that the U.S. can maintain its global leadership, generate more of the evidence needed to inform smart health care and help create a healthier American workforce.

NIH and other health research agencies have experienced a damaging reduction in purchasing power since 2003, slowing science, putting people out of work and forcing patients and their families to wait longer for better cures, treatments and preventions. **The necessary investment to allow these agencies to pay out high-quality projects all around the country and begin to catch up to scientific opportunity is \$11.1 billion.**

**Recovering from losses to inflation over the past six years and allowing for very modest growth, we estimate that the following investment amounts per agency will restore and save good- jobs in every state:**

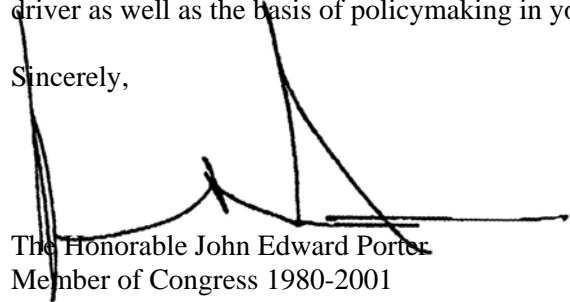
- NIH – \$8.6 billion (FY08 budget = \$29.2 billion)
- NSF – \$1.4 billion (FY08 budget = \$6.1 billion)
- CDC – \$1.0 billion (FY08 budget = \$6.4 billion)
- AHRQ – \$97 million (FY08 budget = \$335 million)

The vast majority of these agencies' funds are distributed to research labs, institutions, hospitals, health departments and companies across the U.S. The infusion of \$11.1 billion could quickly be routed to scientists and health professionals in every state who were previously denied funding despite the high quality of their proposals and ideas. This economic stimulus will have short,

medium and long term impact. As shown in public opinion polls conducted as recently as November of this year, Americans continue to strongly support research for health and believe that their elected representatives should make it a priority. Nothing less than our nation's health and economic well-being is at stake.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal, and for your pledge to reestablish science as an economic driver as well as the basis of policymaking in your Administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Edward Porter". The signature is somewhat stylized and overlaps with the typed name below it.

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 style.

Mary Woolley

C: John Podesta  
Thomas A. Daschle  
William Corr  
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