

JUNE 2006

# The Research ADVOCATE

*Bringing Research Closer to Home*

## Advocates Make Great Strides Appropriations Process Next Up

Outreach by advocates nationwide—coupled with the leadership of champions in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate committed to advancing research to improve health—has placed federal investment in med-

ical and health research in a strong position as work on the FY 2007 budget moves into the appropriations process.

Following weeks of negotiations with the House Leadership, the research advocacy community won an important

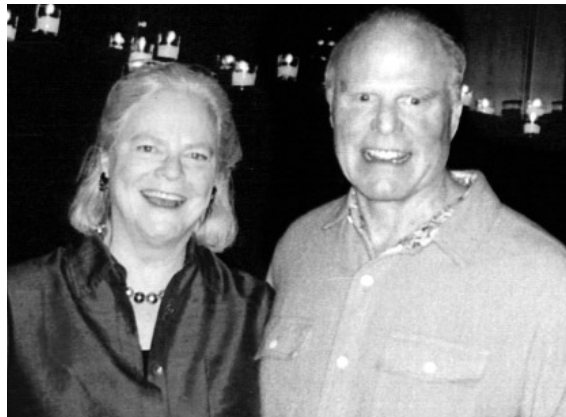
victory on May 18, thanks to a stalwart effort led by **Rep. Mike Castle (DE)**, who was joined by **Reps. Nancy Johnson (CT)** and **David Reichert (WA)** and a group of moderate Republicans.

The outcome is a House-approved Budget Resolution that includes a definitive increase of \$4 billion for health,

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## Gund Foundation Supports Research!America Advocacy Award

**The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation** will underwrite one of Research!America's Advocacy Awards for five years beginning in 2007. "The Gordon and Llura Gund Volunteer Leadership Award" will recognize outstanding volunteer advocates for medical or other health-related research. The Gund's inaugural award will be presented at our 11th Annual Advocacy Awards gala on March 20, 2007, at the



Llura and Gordon Gund

Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. The Research!America Board of Directors extends its gratitude to the Gunds for their partnership and generosity.

In 2006, Gordon Gund was honored with our volunteer advocacy award for his work as co-founder and chairman of **The Foundation Fighting Blindness** ([www.blindness.org](http://www.blindness.org)), a Research!America member. Llura Gund is a co-founder of the foundation, which is dedicated to finding the causes, treatments and cures for retinitis pigmentosa, age-related macular degeneration and allied retinal degenerative

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## AMERICA Speaks

Currently, about 6 cents out of each health dollar spent in the U.S. goes for medical and health research. How many cents out of each health dollar do you think we SHOULD spend?

SOURCE: NATIONAL SURVEY, 2006  
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

## Americans Want More Spent on Medical and Health Research



# New ON THE Web

[www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org)

## Garfield Award Nominations Brochure

Visit our home page for criteria, information on past recipients and guidelines for submitting nominations. Help us recognize those demonstrating the economic impact of medical and health research.

## New Public Service Ads Online

On the Web site of The Hill, Capitol Hill's largest circulation newspaper, you'll see our new online public service ads promoting Americans' support for research to improve health. Visit [www.thehill.com](http://www.thehill.com).

# The Research ADVOCATE



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## About Research!America

Research!America is a 501(c)(3), membership-supported, public education and advocacy alliance founded in 1989. Our 500+ member institutions, organizations and businesses represent the voices of more than 125 million Americans who want research to improve health to be a higher national priority. Research!America's public opinion surveys, advocacy programs and publications reach the public and decision makers with messages that support a strong and vibrant research enterprise.

**Research!America**  
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH

2 RESEARCH!AMERICA

# Members TAKE Action

## The J. David Gladstone Institutes



**Robert W. Mahley,  
MD, PhD**

*The J. David Gladstone Institutes is an independent, not-for-profit biomedical research institution affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco. It is devoted to research into cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS and Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders.*

If National Institutes of Health funding levels do not keep pace with scientific opportunity, "there is a grave concern for all of us involved in medical research," said Robert W. Mahley, MD, PhD, president, The J. David Gladstone Institutes.

"The bottom line is that many research initiatives will have to be delayed for longer than we would like."

Gladstone was part of San Francisco's successful bid for the **California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)**, the state agency that was created by Proposition 71, to locate its headquarters near Gladstone in the heart of San Francisco's emerging biotech corridor.

"Gladstone was among the first institutions to receive funding from CIRM as part of the agency's first round of training grants. It was gratifying to be part of this historic process, and we intend to stay closely involved with CIRM," Mahley said. "We were happy to see that the review process for these first grants was well organized and that it featured a stellar review panel. We are hopeful that, as this process goes forward, stringent peer review will ensure that taxpayer money is well spent. We can help to make sure this level of excellence is maintained by continuing to submit the best possible proposals."

One year ago, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810/S. 471), yet at press time, the U.S. Senate had yet to bring this bill to a vote.

"We understand the need to regulate stem cell research at some level. Everyone agrees there should be an international ban on human reproduc-

tive cloning. However, research on human embryonic stem cells has many valuable applications, and the current legal restrictions severely restrict this work," Mahley said. "Young American scientists have some reluctance to go into this promising field for fear of legal restrictions. This research is so important that we need to attract the best and the brightest, not scare them away. It's my hope that CIRM funding will play a large role in allowing us to reverse these trends."

Gladstone is committed to informing the public about medical research and to inspiring youngsters to pursue scientific careers.

"Our outreach programs include a public lecture series, 'Science for Life,' scholarships for local high school students to participate in a summer careers program, a pen-pal program between our scientific staff and local elementary school kids, and participation in the annual 'Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day,' among many others," he said.

Gladstone has been a member of the Research!America alliance for 12 years.

"Research!America has been a powerful non-partisan voice for the benefits of research to America. As scientists, we are trained not to think about politics, but it is critical to make government officials aware of the importance of our research," Mahley said. "This makes Research!America's political advocacy activism tremendously important to all of us in the USA's scientific community."

Mahley is also a senior investigator for Gladstone's institutes of cardiovascular and neurological diseases. For more information, visit [www.gladstone.ucsf.edu](http://www.gladstone.ucsf.edu).

## Fostering Scientist-Journalist Dialogue

Building on a 2004 media/science forum held with Research!America, the **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Public Health** and the **Rutgers University School of Communication, Information and Library Studies** held their fourth Scientist-Journalist Dialogue. Speaker **Paul Raeburn**, NPR commentator and former science writer for *Business Week* and Associated Press, likened the pace of journalism to writing and submitting a grant every day. He noted that further challenges for science reporters are interpreting technical terms, complex issues and lengthy reports for lay audiences.

## TheHill.com: New Research!America Poll Data

New Research!America poll findings will be featured this month on **TheHill.com**—the Web site of *The Hill*, Capitol Hill's largest circulation publication. Beginning June 5, our finding that 78% of Americans say it is very important that the U.S. is a global leader in medical and health research will appear on each page of *The Hill's* Web site. More findings will run in the following weeks. Since the launch of this online campaign last fall, our poll data has produced **more than 5 million impressions** among Capitol Hill staff and other policy audiences.

## NSF Messages: 'Advancing the Frontier'

In Congressional testimony about the FY 2007 budget, **National Science Foundation** Director **Arden L. Bement, Jr., PhD**, outlined NSF's priorities, referring often to "advancing the frontier" of science and knowledge. He remarked, "The President's commitment to doubling the NSF budget will allow NSF to concentrate its vision on the frontier and on the talent needed to keep us there. ... Our 50 years of basic research investments—in discovery, learning and innovation—have a longstanding and proven track record of boosting the nation's economic vitality and competitive strength."

## Prevention Ads Blanket the Nation

In six issues of *PARADE* magazine this year, Research!America's public service ads

promoting the importance of prevention research and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** have appeared in 47 states and the District of Columbia. From February through May, the campaign has generated **nearly 7 million audience impressions**.



In his new documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," Al Gore says, "In America, political will is a renewable resource." This senti-

ment captures perfectly the possibilities for advocates determined to accomplish even the seemingly impossible. Political will to increase our national investment in research is again emerging, seen in the successful efforts by a community of stakeholders driven to keep research and public health working for America. We have witnessed quite remarkable victories in both the Senate and House that hold the promise to take us off the downward trajectory slated for the nation's health research agencies.

(See page 1 story.)

I am struck not only by the resilience and determination of the stakeholders in research but also by the triumph of public priorities. We know medical and health research is a very high public priority—we just don't say it often enough, in enough venues and with enough emphasis. And there aren't as yet enough voices speaking out, although there are many more than in the past!

Our goal is to identify thousands more advocates, to build an even stronger collective voice.

I am very pleased to report that one of the most effective advocacy voices of our times, Gordon Gund, whom Research!America had the honor of celebrating at our recent awards event, is joining us in that mission. He and his wife Llura are the newest sponsors of our advocacy awards program. (See page 1 story.) The Board of Directors joins me in thanking the Gunds for their generosity and partnership, and for all they do as advocates for research.

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## FY 2007 Budget

*Continued from page 1*

education and training programs and a House Leadership commitment to an additional \$3.1 billion through the appropriations process. Further, moderates received a commitment from the leadership that the \$3.1 billion will not come from mandatory programs like Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps, foster programs and others.

Rep. Castle and his colleagues were unwavering in their commitment, and repeatedly made the case to House Leadership that broad political support from constituents exists for increased funding for programs supported by the Labor, Health, Human Services and Education appropriations bill. The final vote on the House Budget Resolution was 218–210.

In March, the Senate approved an amendment to its Budget Resolution that was introduced by longtime research champions **Sens. Arlen Specter (PA)** and **Tom Harkin (IA)**. This amendment provides for \$7 billion to be added to the Senate Resolution for spending on health, education and training programs. The Specter–Harkin amendment passed by a vote of 73–27.

Even with approved Budget Resolutions in both the House and Senate, the prospect of a Congressional Budget Resolution is dim due to the huge gap

between the two. While some discussions may take place, the House has already turned to appropriations bills. (See “Advocacy & Action,” page 8).

## Stem Cell Momentum

Former First Lady **Nancy Reagan**, recipient of Research!America’s 2006 Legacy Award, wrote to **Senator Orrin Hatch (UT)** urging him to make sure the **Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 810/S. 471)** passes in the Senate soon.



**Sens. Orrin Hatch (UT) and Tom Harkin (IA)**

Sen. Hatch shared the letter at a May 16 press conference with **Sens. Tom Harkin (IA)** and **Dianne Feinstein (CA)**. All three—who are bill co-sponsors with **Sens. Arlen Specter (PA)**, **Gordon Smith (OR)** and **Edward Kennedy (MA)**—called on **Majority Leader Bill Frist (TN)** to bring H.R. 810/S. 471 to a vote immediately. (See insert: our ad in *The Hill* urging a Senate vote.)

## 2007 FEDERAL BUDGET

Agency	President's Request	% Change over 2006
National Institutes of Health	\$28.6 billion	No change
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	\$5.8 billion*	-4.6%
National Science Foundation	\$6 billion	+7.9%
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	\$319 million	No change

\* Reflects the CDC core program budget. The total CDC budget proposed for FY 2007 is \$8 billion, including the non-discretionary Vaccines for Children program. For more information on the CDC budget, visit [www.FundCDC.org](http://www.FundCDC.org).

## Pardes, Woolley Receive Clinical Research Forum Awards

**Herbert Pardes, MD**, president and CEO of **NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital** and a Research!America board member, and Research!America President and Chief Executive Officer **Mary Woolley** recently received Clinical Research Forum awards. Pardes was honored for his leadership and advancement of clinical research within academic health centers, and Woolley was recognized for her work in awareness-building and advocacy in support of clinical research.

Other award winners included **Sens. Arlen Specter (PA)** and **Edward Kennedy (MA)**, both of whom received Lifetime Achievement Awards.

The Clinical Research Forum is comprised of 46 of the nation's most prestigious academic health centers. It provides leadership to the nation's clinical and translational research enterprise and promotes understanding and support for clinical research and its impact on health and health care. Visit [www.clinicalresearchforum.org](http://www.clinicalresearchforum.org).



L-R: Herbert Pardes, MD, Mary Woolley, Sen. Edward Kennedy (MA)

## Rosenfeld Receives NY-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell's Highest Award

**Isadore Rosenfeld, MD**, a Research!America emeritus director and award benefactor, was awarded the prestigious Maurice R. Greenberg Distinguished Service Award at a gala ceremony in May in New York City. The highest honor **NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College** bestows on a physician, the Greenberg Award



L-R: Maurice Greenberg, Weill Cornell Medical College Board of Overseers; Isadore Rosenfeld, MD; Peter Guida, MD, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital; Arthur Mahon, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Board of Overseers

includes a \$50,000 grant to be used in connection with the recipient's research.

Rosenfeld is the Ida and Theo Rossi Distinguished Professor of Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and attending physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and **Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center**. He is the best-selling author of 14 books, the health editor for *PARADE* magazine, and host of Sunday's "Housecall" on the Fox



L-R: Isadore Rosenfeld, MD, Camilla Rosenfeld, Anita Gotto, Antonio Gotto, MD, dean of Weill Medical College

Cable News Network. Among other leadership roles, in 2005, Rosenfeld received a presidential appointment to the Advisory Council for the White House Conference on Aging. He maintains a consulting practice in New York City specializing in cardiovascular diseases.

For more information, visit [www.med.cornell.edu](http://www.med.cornell.edu).

## Gund Foundation

*Continued from page 1*

diseases. It has raised more than \$240 million to fund thousands of related research studies.

Gordon Gund, who lost his own sight in 1970 at age 30 to retinitis pigmentosa, is also chairman and chief executive officer of the Gund Investment Corporation and of Gund Business Enterprises.

## Welcome New Members!

American Academy of Nursing

Arthritis Foundation,  
Rocky Mountain Chapter

Assurant Health

Center for the  
Advancement of Health

Community Health Partnership

Home Safety Council

Invitrogen

National Electrical  
Manufacturers Association

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

*Not yet a member? Join Research!America today! Contact Cindy McConnell at 703-739-2577, ext. 35, or [cmccConnell@researchamerica.org](mailto:cmccConnell@researchamerica.org) or visit [www.researchamerica.org/purchase/index.html](http://www.researchamerica.org/purchase/index.html).*

# Did YOU Know

Linda H. Aiken, PhD, RN, of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, a Research!America member, received the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research. The highest distinction in this field, the prize is sponsored by **The Baxter International Foundation** and administered by the **Association of University Programs in Health Administration**. Aiken received the 2006 Research!America "Raymond and Beverly Sackler Award for Sustained Leadership at the National Level."

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*A Decade of Innovation: Advances in the Treatment of Rare Diseases* is a new report by **PhRMA**, the **National Organization for Rare Disorders** and the **Genetic Alliance**. It highlights research advances in the last decade, with more than 160 new medicines now available for orphan diseases. The report is available at [www.phrma.org](http://www.phrma.org), [www.rarediseases.org](http://www.rarediseases.org) and [www.geneticalliance.org](http://www.geneticalliance.org).

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Research!America's president, **Mary Woolley**, discussed domestic and international advocacy in recent presentations to the **Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology**, **Association of Clinical Research Professionals**, **Clinical Research Forum** and **PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative**.

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## Holbrook Elected to Research!America Board



Karen A. Holbrook, PhD

**Karen A. Holbrook, PhD**, president of **The Ohio State University**, was elected to the Research!America Board of Directors on May 9.

Holbrook has made cutting-edge research a priority at Ohio State, which now ranks ninth among public universities in research expenditures. Previously, she served in leadership roles at The University of Georgia and University of Florida at Gainesville Graduate School and was a professor of biological structure and medicine at the University of Washington, School of Medicine. She has received numerous awards and honors for her work and has been active with organizations including the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Association of American Medical Colleges. She served on the National Advisory Council for the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and was chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors. For more information, visit <http://president.osu.edu>.

## The HIV/AIDS Pandemic at 25

In June 1981, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** issued its first report about a disease now known as AIDS. Twenty-five years later, more than 25 million people have died of AIDS, and, while research advances have greatly extended life expectancy for those with HIV/AIDS, 14,000 new infections occur worldwide every day. The 25th year of the pandemic has been the recent topic of a *Newsweek* cover story, a PBS "Frontline" series and a United Nations meeting among more than 192 nations to discuss progress and renew commitments.

A recent **Kaiser Family Foundation** ([www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)) survey found no lack of public support for fighting the disease: 56% of Americans think the U.S. is spending too little on HIV/AIDS in developing countries, up from 31% in 2002, and 63% say the U.S. government is spending too little at home to fight the disease, up from 52% in 2004.

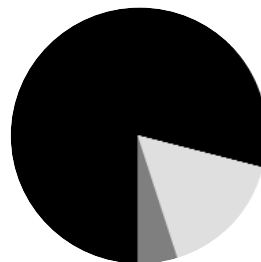
In a statement for HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (May 18), **Anthony S. Fauci, MD**, director of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said, "Since 1987, dedicated investigators supported by NIAID have enrolled more than 23,000 volunteers in 96 HIV vaccine clinical trials that have tested at least 58 different vaccine candidates. ... We must continue to accelerate efforts in both basic and clinical research to design promising new vaccine candidates and to test their potential for preventing HIV infection." NIAID is urging Americans to "be the generation" that ends AIDS. Visit [www.bethegeneration.org](http://www.bethegeneration.org) for information about preventive HIV vaccine research. An interview with Dr. Fauci is scheduled to appear in the June 4 issue of *PARADE* magazine.

## AMERICA Speaks

Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic science research which advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.

SOURCE: NATIONAL SURVEY, 2005  
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

## Strong Support for Basic Research



Agree	<b>79%</b>
Disagree	<b>16%</b>
Don't know	<b>5%</b>

## CDC Report: Economic Impact of Injury

The lifetime costs of the nearly 50 million injuries suffered annually in the U.S. will ultimately reach **\$406 billion** in medical expenses and productivity losses, and most of these injuries are predictable and preventable. This is among the findings of a new report from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, *The Incidence and Economic Burden of Injuries in the United States*—the most comprehensive analysis to date of the economic impact of injuries. Visit [www.cdc.gov/injury](http://www.cdc.gov/injury).

In a 2005 Research!America-SafeUSA poll, 70% of Americans said research into new ways to prevent injuries is an

effective use of taxpayer dollars, and eight in 10 (79%) said it is important for the U.S. to invest in new ways to prevent injury. Injury prevention is the topic of one of our public service ads that have been featured across the country this year in *PARADE* magazine. The ad and toolkit are available under Advocacy Tools at [www.research-america.org/advocacy](http://www.research-america.org/advocacy).

*\$406 billion would fund the CDC for 50 years at its current funding level.*

## Public Health Advocates Trained in New Orleans

Last month in New Orleans—a city now associated with a public health emergency of massive proportions—Research!America conducted a public health advocacy session at the annual conference of the **National Network of Public Health Institutes**. About 75 participants representing 33 state-based public health institutes learned how to tap into the power of public opinion polling, critical messaging, advocacy strategies and communications. **Joseph Kimbrell**, presi-



Joseph Kimbrell,  
NNPHI

dent and chief executive officer of NNPHI, noted the urgent need for every participant to become an active advocate on behalf of public health.

State-based public health institutes are being formed across the country as a new way for government, business, academia and other not-for-profits to collaborate in strengthening public health at local and national levels.

To arrange a Research!America advocacy training workshop, contact Shannon Dzubin at [sdzubin@researchamerica.org](mailto:sdzubin@researchamerica.org).



## Did You Know?

*Continued from page 6*

**Susan Scrimshaw, PhD**, dean of the **University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health** and a Research!America emeritus director, received the **Illinois Public Health Association 2006 Distinguished Service Award**. Nominated by students, faculty, staff and alumni, she was recognized for her research, teaching and public health practice.

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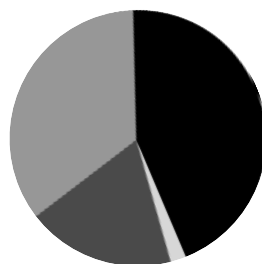
**Jessie Gruman, PhD**, president, **Center for the Advancement of Health**, received **The George Washington University President's Medal** for her advocacy and activism. Past recipients have included Shimon Peres and Mikhail Gorbachev. The Center, a Research!America member, received our 2006 Advocacy Award for the "Organization that has Distinguished Itself by Its Advocacy."

\* \* \*

*The Science of Aging Gracefully: Scientists and the Public Talk about Aging Research* is a new report from **Public Agenda** prepared for **The Alliance for Aging Research** and **The American Federation for Aging Research**, both Research!America members. The report can be found at [www.publicagendaonline.org](http://www.publicagendaonline.org), under Research Studies. **Ruth Wooden**, president of Public Agenda, is a Research!America board member.

## Investing in New Ways to Prevent Injury Important to U.S.

How important do you think it is for the U.S. to invest in new ways to prevent injury?



Very	<b>44%</b>
Somewhat	<b>35%</b>
Not	<b>19%</b>
Don't know	<b>2%</b>

SOURCE: NATIONAL INJURY SURVEY, 2005  
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA  
AND SAFEUSA

# ComingUp

July-August—Watch this newsletter and our Web site for the release of **Research!America's 2005 U.S. Investment in Health Research Report**, the only known compilation of public and private funding of medical and health research.

July 31—Nominations are due for our **Eugene Garfield Economic Impact of Medical Research Award**. Visit our home page to download the nominations brochure or email [GarfieldAward@researchamerica.org](mailto:GarfieldAward@researchamerica.org).

August—**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** celebrates 60 years of protecting the nation's health, working toward "safer, healthier people." Visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

# Advocacy & Action

## Urge Your Senators to Support Stem Cell Research

Pressure to pass the **Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act** (H.R. 810/S. 471) in the Senate is mounting. To contact your Senators about the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, visit [www.researchamerica.org/advocacy](http://www.researchamerica.org/advocacy).

## Continue the Push for Research Funding

Victory with the Budget Resolutions was an important first step in securing increased funding for the **National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** and **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**. Health research advocates were essential to the \$7 billion House budget victory, and continued advocacy is critical as Congress considers the **FY 2007 appropriations** bills. Visit [www.researchamerica.org/advocacy](http://www.researchamerica.org/advocacy) for updates and to sign-up for our E-advocacy Network.

## Visit

**US ON THE WEB** [www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org)

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