



May 10th, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitchell McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
U.S. House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Schumer,

On behalf of Research!America, the nation’s largest public education and advocacy alliance working to elevate medical and public health progress to a higher national priority, thank you for the pivotal role you play in safeguarding and advancing the interests of the American people. In that context, I am writing to request that you allow the 45-day impoundment period associated with President Trump’s \$15 billion rescissions package to expire without pursuing the proposed cuts to funding for such worthy uses as Ebola response and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Center (CMMI) pilot projects.

In regard to funding for Ebola, not only are response funds of urgent importance now because of a newly reported outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but disarming our nation when future outbreaks cannot yet be prevented would be a costly mistake in human and fiscal terms. Every second of delay in the wake of a deadly, communicable disease outbreak sacrifices lives and dollars as health care needs grow and the spread of the disease compounds its impact. Further, the threat to Americans is highly dependent on the timing of our response globally; as the number of cases grows, so does the risk that Ebola-infected individuals will travel to the U.S. Rapid response capability is more than a sound fiscal strategy; it should be considered a national security imperative.

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CMMI leverages health services and health economics research to pilot new health care financing and delivery models. By designing and testing potential improvements, CMMI is not only working to reduce the costs and increase the quality of federally-funded health care, it is securing the evidence needed to prevent costly, wholesale adoption of new financing and delivery models that ultimately do more harm than good. Our nation spends nearly \$1.5 trillion per year to fund federal health programs. The total CMMI budget amounts to less than 0.15% of that spending. As health care spending spirals upward, choosing to reduce the CMMI budget and in so doing squander opportunities to responsibly bend the health care cost curve simply does not make fiscal sense for our nation.

We appreciate the importance of sound fiscal stewardship, including vigilance in allocating limited federal resources to their best uses. It is for those very reasons, and because the health and well-being of Americans and individuals across the globe hang in the balance, that we ask you to reject these rescissions. Thank you for considering our views. Please let me know if we can provide additional information or assist in any other way as you consider next steps on the rescissions package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley".

Mary Woolley