



February 3, 2021

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The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the board and members of Research!America, we are writing to provide more than [120 examples, quotes, and other documentation](#) that bring into focus the corrosive effects of COVID-19 on our nation's basic and clinical research ecosystem. We believe this information, provided by our alliance members – patient organizations, universities, independent research institutes, academic health centers, pharmaceutical and medical device companies, scientific societies, and philanthropies – compellingly conveys the real world consequences of the pandemic on U.S. research assets.

We hope the information included in this letter helps ensure that supplemental funding for COVID-19 impacted research is treated as the urgent priority that it is and is included in the next supplemental spending package. Further delay in vital research means losing critical progress toward innovations and discoveries that can deliver hope; for far too many Americans, COVID-19 is a health threat on top of other health threats they have been battling for years and, perhaps, all of their lives.

Supplemental funding is needed to address not just one imperative but many, including:

- Buttressing our weakened research infrastructure so that the ecosystem can continue to support evolving COVID-19 research needs;
- Repairing broken career ladders for young scientists to secure our research capacity going forward;

- Restoring derailed clinical trials that could make a life or death difference for patients;
- Ensuring American taxpayers' previous investment in research – science taking aim at Alzheimer's, cancer, rare diseases, mental illnesses, and other deadly and debilitating health threats – is not squandered;
- Recommitting to racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the research workforce, knowing that minorities and women in research have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 disruptions; and
- Unleashing research as a “shovel ready” economic stimulus.

We deeply appreciate your committed efforts, and that of your respective staff members, to combat COVID-19 and counter, to the extent possible, its tragic and devastating effects. We hope the information we have provided helps shed light on the havoc COVID-19 has wrought on the research ecosystem and the importance of acting now to reinforce this crucial American asset.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Woolley
President & CEO
Research!America

CC

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Kay Granger