



June 18, 2020

The Honorable Diana DeGette
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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*on leave of absence

Dear Representatives DeGette and Upton:

On behalf of Research!America, I am writing in strong support of your joint efforts to advance “Cures 2.0” initiatives in the next emergency supplemental appropriations package. The landmark 21st Century Cures Act of 2016 (21stCC) you spearheaded elevated the priority our nation assigns to fighting health threats that rob Americans and populations across the globe of hope, independence, and time. By boosting efficiencies in the R&D pipeline, fostering patient engagement, increasing research resources and affecting change in other pivotal ways, 21stCC is accelerating medical progress and saving lives.

As our nation navigates a public health threat that as of June 16, 2020 has already taken more than 116,000 lives in the U.S. and nearly 435,000 globally¹, it is profoundly heartening to know that you are working together to advance another set of targeted actions that would address unmet needs in COVID-19 response and pandemic preparedness.

From ensuring broadscale testing capability, emergency supply readiness, and other facets of pandemic response are woven into our future public health infrastructure; to addressing the needs of patients facing unique challenges when pandemics strike; to bolstering vaccine confidence and addressing the need for new antibiotics; your proposal would significantly strengthen our nation’s ability to respond rapidly, comprehensively and effectively when public health threats arise.

Please let me know if Research!America can be helpful in any way as you work together to advance this important proposal. Thank you and your respective staff members for your resolute commitment to a safer, healthier future and for your extraordinarily hard work.

Sincerely,

Mary Woolley
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¹ [Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Tracker](#)