



May 3, 2018

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The Honorable Richard Shelby
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U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Research!America, the nation's largest public education and advocacy alliance committed to elevating medical and public health progress to a higher national priority, I am writing to thank you for your stewardship over our nation's discretionary funding priorities. As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees prioritize fiscal year 2019 (FY19) funding, we ask you to boost medical progress and bolster our nation's public health capacity by providing a meaningful increase over FY18 in the 302(b) allocation for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education and Related Agencies (Labor-H) Appropriations Subcommittees.

The roles that the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) play are emblematic of the crucially important national priorities funded under the Labor-H Subcommittees. These agencies each contribute significantly to combating massive public health threats like the opioid crisis and antibiotic resistance, even as they fuel progress against a host of common and rare diseases and work to address the fiscal toll of chronic conditions by reducing their prevalence and optimizing treatment outcomes.

Research!America appreciates the difficult task facing Congress as it seeks to simultaneously confront the federal deficit and debt, strengthen the United States and promote the well-being of Americans. We firmly believe that increased funding for NIH, CDC and AHRQ is a means of advancing all three of these

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fundamental goals. We hope that as you negotiate the 302(b) process, you will assign a top priority to assuring there is sufficient funding in the allocation for the Labor-H Subcommittee to enable these increases. We thank you and your respective staff members for your hard work, responsiveness and determination to advance the best interests of America and Americans.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Woolley

Cc: Members, Senate and House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees