



February 13, 2018

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
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The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
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The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
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Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leaders McConnell, Pelosi and Schumer, Chairman Cochran and Frelinghuysen and Vice Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance working to make research to improve health a higher national priority, thank you for the pivotal role you and your staff members played in securing a budget agreement to raise the spending caps for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. We recognize the challenges entailed in negotiating and securing passage of this agreement, and are grateful for your commitment to succeeding in this effort on behalf of the American people.

We also appreciate the message the budget agreement sends about the importance of NIH-funded research, opioid response and mental health. As you work with appropriations leaders to finalize a Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations package, we urge you to provide a \$2 billion increase for NIH, grow CDC funding to address a dangerous gap in resources relative to responsibilities, and assure our nation's other key public health agencies, including FDA and AHRQ, are robustly funded.

Like our armed forces, these public health agencies protect the American people and defend our nation against catastrophic threats. We cannot afford a public health infrastructure so stretched and weakened that vulnerabilities become crises. Nor can we ignore the role these agencies play in our fiscal future. From vaccine development and delivery to combating costly and deadly medical errors to

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confronting the daunting fiscal and health challenge inherent in antibiotic resistance, our public health agencies both protect Americans' health and preempt higher health spending.

The budget deal also provides a crucial opportunity to end our also-ran status in the race to secure and sustain global R&D leadership. China and other competitor nations are outpacing us across numerous R&D indicators, at the alarming expense of U.S. prosperity, influence, and ultimately, our security as a nation and a people. By providing a funding increase to the National Science Foundation (NSF) that is at least proportional to the increase in the budget caps and assigning commensurate priority to the Department of Energy and our other R&D agencies, the 115th Congress can set our nation on a course to long-term R&D leadership and make a profoundly important difference in the future our children inherit.

We thank you again for your resolve to secure a bipartisan budget deal, and for your leadership. We ask that you champion a final FY18 spending package that translates the potential you created in that agreement into R&D-fueled forward momentum for our nation.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America