



September 17, 2020

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Research!America alliance, thank you for your continuing efforts to arrive at bipartisan agreement on critical funding issues, including Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations and an emergency spending package that responds to the devastating, compounding impacts of COVID-19. We appreciate the formidable challenges you face as you navigate this profoundly complex crisis and the enormous amount of work you and your staff members are devoting as you forge a path forward.

In that context, we ask that you schedule a floor vote for the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act (S.4286). The RISE Act, introduced by Senators Edward Markey (D-MA), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Gary Peters (D-MI), and Cory Gardner (R-CO), would authorize \$26 billion to help address the corrosive effects of COVID-19 on our nation's research capacity and infrastructure.

As described in this [analysis](#):

“The pandemic curtailed most academic, industry, and government basic science and clinical research, or redirected research to COVID-19. Most clinical trials, except those testing life-saving therapies have been paused, and most continuing trials have been closed to new enrollment... Support throughout and beyond the pandemic to retain currently well-trained research personnel and research support teams, and to accommodate loss of research assets, including laboratory supplies and study participants, will be required to complete disrupted research and ultimately enable new research.”

In a series of [fact sheets](#), the nonprofit coalition United for Medical Research further delineates the stultifying effects of COVID-19 on life-saving research.

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The RISE Act passed out of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation earlier this week by voice vote. We respectfully request that you advance this legislation to the Senate floor without delay.

Throughout your respective tenures in Congress, you have played profoundly important roles in advancing medical progress. In fact, your leadership has seeded basic research that is integral to the development of COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines. Your stewardship of fast-paced medical progress is needed again now to restore COVID-19 eroded research funding.

As always, we are here to support your efforts in any way we can. Please let us know if additional information would be useful or if we can otherwise be of assistance to you and your staff members.

Thank you, and your respective staff members, again for your extraordinary service to our nation.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Woolley
President and CEO, Research!America