



November 15, 2018

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20003

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20002

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Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of Research!America, the nation’s largest not-for-profit advocacy and public education alliance committed to faster medical and public health progress, we appreciate your extraordinary efforts to advance the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) appropriations process on a timely basis, as exemplified by the successful passage, on 09/28/18, of legislation funding the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services.

We are writing to urge you to work with the same level of urgency and determination to pass the remaining FY19 bills before the continuing resolution (CR) under which they are funded expires on December 7, 2018.

The risk inaction entails for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and National Science Foundation (NSF) is emblematic of the need to meet the December 7 deadline.

Under the current CR, these agencies are unable to move forward. Yet, the mission and aims of FDA and NSF bear crucially on the pace of life-saving medical progress and our global economic competitiveness over the short- and long-term.

Among the agency’s many responsibilities, FDA is responsible for assuring the safety and effectiveness of medicines and medical technologies that respond to deadly and debilitating health threats. In terms of its economic significance, FDA oversees more than \$2.4 trillion in products – which account for 20 percent of annual spending by U.S. consumers.

NSF is a crucial engine for our nation’s R&D leadership, funding strategically important research that underlies bedrock industries like IT and biopharmaceuticals, informs efforts

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to thwart cyber- and other forms of terrorism, and in a plethora of other ways protects and advances the nation's interests.

While the ramifications would clearly be more far-reaching than the impact on FDA and NSF, in the context of these agencies alone, another CR -- or even more extreme, a partial government shutdown -- runs counter to the fundamental interests of America and Americans.

We are a nation that embraces opportunity and overcomes challenges, not one that treads water as crucial priorities flounder and other nations outcompete us. Under your leadership, Congress can complete the appropriations process and empower FDA and NSF to meet the expectations of the American people. We ask you to act with urgency to complete the appropriations process and provide these agencies with budgets that reflect the ever-evolving responsibilities each is tasked with fulfilling.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration, and please extend our appreciation to your staff members for their demonstrated commitment and hard work in support of your efforts.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Woolley