



January 11, 2022

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The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts, and those of your dedicated staff members, to address the myriad challenges facing our nation. We are writing to thank you for prioritizing expeditious action to complete action on the FY22 Omnibus Appropriations legislation, including incorporating supplemental funding to address the effects of the latest spike in the pandemic.

Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 145,000 Americans under 45 lost their lives annually from physical and mental illness. For far too many Americans, COVID-19 is a health threat layered on top of those they already face. Between 25 and 30 million people in the United States, many of them children, are living with a rare disease; nearly 17 million are battling cancer; at least 10 million face a serious mental illness; more than six million are struggling with Alzheimer's; and over 34 million are living with diabetes. These figures represent only a small fraction of the number of people in our country living with a disease or debilitating condition.

At a time when we are facing unprecedented challenges from COVID-19 along with other health threats, we should not flatline funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal agencies critical to securing the health, safety, and prosperity of the American people.

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<sup>1</sup> National Institute for Children's Health Quality. *Rare Diseases Deserve Our Attention*. Boston: National Institute for Children's Health Quality; n.d.

<sup>2</sup> American Cancer Society. *Cancer Treatment & Survivorship Facts & Figures 2019-2021*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2019.

<sup>3</sup> National Alliance on Mental Illness. *Mental Health Facts in America*. Arlington: National Alliance on Mental Illness; n.d.

<sup>4</sup> Alzheimer's Association. *2021 Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures*. Chicago: Alzheimer's Association; 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2020*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services; 2020.

We urge you to enact an FY22 omnibus budget along with supplemental funding that addresses those imperatives.

We stand ready to support your efforts as you work to complete the FY22 appropriations process to escalate the battle against deadly and debilitating diseases and other urgent threats that – directly and indirectly – pose a threat to us all.

Thank you for your vision and leadership.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Woolley  
President and CEO  
Research!America