



December 3, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
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

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Jay A. Gershen, DDS, PhD

Dear Leader McConnell and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of Research!America and the organizations listed below, thank you for your vigilance and leadership during this profoundly challenging period in our nation's history. As COVID-19 continues to take lives, cause immense suffering, and thwart urgently needed medical, economic, and societal progress, we urge you to address two national imperatives:

1) Before a government shutdown compounds the plethora of challenges already confronting the United States and the American people, please act to secure passage of an FY21 appropriations package that bolsters the budgets of such COVID-relevant and strategically pivotal agencies as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The significance of these research and public health agencies has never been more apparent; their work saves lives, fuels solutions for societal challenges; creates jobs; and contributes in multi-faceted ways to individual and national security. Please provide an increase of at least \$2 billion for NIH, \$380 million for CDC, \$250 million for FDA and \$133 million for AHRQ.

2) As the escalating COVID-19 crisis breeds more suffering, takes more lives, further corrodes the financial self-sufficiency of the American people, dangerously weakens the foundations of a stable economy, and hobbles medical progress needed to save lives lost to cancer, Alzheimer's disease, mental health and substance abuse disorders, and a plethora of other deadly and debilitating health threats, our nation simply cannot afford inaction on emergency spending legislation.

In addition to protecting families from financial catastrophe, restoring jobs, and hastening an end to the scourge of COVID-19, we firmly believe this emergency package should prevent further erosion in U.S.-driven medical progress and job-producing R&D. The pandemic upended ongoing research at universities, academic medical centers, independent research institutes and clinical trial sites, stalling the science but not the associated costs. Federal grant dollars as well as research funding from the patient and philanthropic communities were affected, jeopardizing the viability of life-saving research across our nation. We ask that you provide at least \$26 billion to reboot this crucial research.

241 18th Street South  
Suite 501  
Arlington, VA 22202

P 703.739.2577

F 703.739.2372

E [info@researchamerica.org](mailto:info@researchamerica.org)

When our nation invests in itself, we are unstoppable. Through your leadership, and given the reality that the wellbeing Americans and our future as a nation hang in the balance, we believe the 116th Congress can achieve passage of a robust Fiscal Year 2021 budget and vitally important emergency spending. We stand ready to support your efforts and express our profound gratitude to you and your respective staff members for your extraordinary efforts.

Sincerely,

Research!America  
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research  
AcademyHealth  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Stronger FDA  
ALS Association  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American Heart Association  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Tropical Medicine & Hygiene  
American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Nephrology  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairs  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)  
Axis Advocacy  
Beyond Celiac  
Biophysical Society  
Burroughs Wellcome Fund  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Consortium of Universities for Global Health  
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
FNINR  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
Illinois College of Optometry  
JDRCF  
Johnson & Johnson  
Kent State University  
Lasker Foundation  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Foundation to End Child Abuse and Neglect  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)  
NDRI  
Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures  
North American Vascular Biology Organization  
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center  
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation  
Rosenfeld Heart Foundation  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sepsis Alliance  
Shepherd University  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Solve ME/CFS Initiative  
State University of New York College of Optometry  
Texas Biomedical Research Institute  
The Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University  
The Wistar Institute  
UMSL Optometry at the University of Missouri -St. Louis  
University of Delaware  
University of Florida College of Nursing  
University of Miami  
University of South Florida  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
UsAgainstAlzheimer's  
Wayne State University  
Yale University