

November 1, 2021

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President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of Research!America, thank you for your leadership during a uniquely challenging period in the nation's history, and for your individual and joint efforts to assure we emerge from the pandemic committed to a proactive approach to achieving invulnerable health, economic, and homeland security.

As the clock ticks down to the end of calendar year 2021, we urge you to act with urgency to untether our nation from last year's spending plan by coalescing around topline numbers for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) appropriations. It will not be an easy task, but unless you undertake it, the goal of achieving an updated budget reflecting today's challenges, opportunities, and priorities cannot come to fruition.

Proactive action to preempt the next pandemic, which could emerge before the current one subsides; advance our economic competitiveness; and secure our nation all hinge in significant measure on how the federal government is spending its discretionary funding.

Kicking the can down the road yet again when the current continuing resolution (CR) expires, rather than putting an already overdue FY22 spending plan in place, is incongruous with Americans' expectation that the federal government is stepping up in

response to the COVID-19 wakeup call. Another CR would be worse than treading water. It would:

- Delay basic and translational research needed to preempt the next pandemic and lay the groundwork for multi-faceted medical and public health progress.
- Stymie the launch of “ARPA-H” to incubate bold new health innovations that could literally change the trajectory of life-saving interventions.
- Compromise accelerated progress against the many other crucial priorities Americans hold for our nation’s near- and long-term prosperity and security.

Further, outdated spending sets the stage for inefficient spending, when our nation needs every tax dollar put to its best use.

We therefore ask that you work closely with House and Senate appropriations leaders to establish the bipartisan funding framework needed to complete FY22 appropriations.

Our nation remains in the grip of uncertainty on many fronts, much of it related directly or indirectly to a global health threat that could re-ignite or be joined by another pandemic at any time. Please update the strategic size and mix of discretionary funding so that our research, public health and other federal agencies and programs can bolster national resilience, leverage bold innovation against existential threats, and in myriad ways forge a direct path to a far more secure future.

Thank you for your leadership and the hard work you and your respective staff members devote to the well-being of us all.

Respectfully,

Mary Woolley

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.