August 2, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairman Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Lowey,

On behalf of Research!America, the nation’s largest nonprofit alliance committed to advancing medical progress and strengthening our nation’s public health system, thank you for your fruitful efforts to advance the FY19 appropriations process on a timely basis. In particular, your commitment to working across the aisle and forethought in combining the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-H) and Defense appropriations measures, both of which include vital R&D funding, have brought them close to the finish line.

Your pledge to see these two pieces of legislation, and the appropriations process overall, completed before the end of the fiscal year is crucially important. Our nation cannot afford a frozen budget as the opioid crisis takes lives, antimicrobial resistance degrades our front line against major infectious diseases, and China and other competitor nations ramp up their R&D investment.

Without your vigilance and bipartisan determination, Congress would not be positioned to achieve regular order. Please call on Research!America if we can be of assistance as you negotiate final legislation that advances medical progress, public health readiness, and other science-aided objectives fundamental to the security, prosperity, and wellbeing of the American people.

Sincerely,

Mary Woolley  
President & CEO