Dear Chairman Moran, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Merkley and Ranking Member Farr,

I am writing on behalf of Research!America, the nation’s largest nonprofit alliance working to accelerate medical progress and strengthen our nation’s public health system. We appreciate your leadership over the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees, which allocate funding to agencies and programs crucial to the economic strength of America and the wellbeing of the Americans. As you consider funding for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), we ask that you provide at least $2.8 billion to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The FDA plays a pivotal role in the lives of Americans. It not only oversees the use of prescription medicines and medical devices, but monitors 80 percent of the U.S. food supply. In fact, a quarter of all consumer spending is on FDA-regulated products. We expect the FDA to ensure that these products meet the high standards Americans deserve, and, because lives may hang in the balance, to do so as quickly as possible. The FDA needs adequate resources to meet those expectations. The stakes are high.

The FDA has continued to seek out new and innovative ways to save lives. Programs like Fast Track, Breakthrough Therapy, Accelerated Approval, and Priority Review demonstrate the agency’s commitment to minimizing the time from bench to bedside for crucially needed medical advances. The FDA relies on federal funding to get these vital innovations to patients as quickly as possible without sacrificing safety or efficacy. If the innovation pipeline slows, lives are lost.
Please equip the FDA to fulfill its profoundly important responsibilities by providing at least $2.8 billion for the agency in FY16. Thank you for your stewardship over American priorities and for considering our input.

Sincerely,

Mary Woolley
President and CEO