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May 23, 2016

Chairman Reince Priebus
Republican National Committee
310 First Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairman Priebus,

On behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest not for profit education and advocacy alliance working to accelerate medical progress and strengthen our nation's public health system, I am writing in regard to the 2016 Republican Party Platform.

Research!America was gratified that the 2012 Republican Party Platform stressed the need for faster medical progress and highlighted the importance of research-driven innovations in healthcare delivery. According to public polling commissioned by Research!America, 85% of Americans think candidates for federal office should assign a high priority to increasing funding for medical research, and 81% believe Congress should support legislation encouraging private investment in medical research.

As the Platform Committee determines the tenets of the 2016 Republican Party platform, we respectfully request that you feature the need for faster medical progress even more prominently in the new platform, and also include language in support of a strong and nimble public health system.

In the section of the 2012 Republican Platform entitled "Supporting Federal Healthcare Research and Development," the party articulates support for the research needed to achieve "greater, more cost-effective access to high quality care" and for "federal investment in basic and applied biomedical research." In the section entitled "Reforming the FDA" the party asserts the importance of the US life sciences industry and pledges support for policies that enable our nation to sustain global leadership in this crucial sector of our economy.

Research!America shares your support for a funding and policy environment that promotes both public and private sector driven medical progress and that leverages health research to improve US healthcare delivery. As your 2012 platform suggests, medical progress is not a function of public investment or private sector innovation; it is a function of both. Federal researchers, academic researchers and industry researchers each have a crucial role to play in propelling science forward, and federal policies should set the stage for success across all segments of the life sciences ecosystem. And while biomedical research is a critical piece of the puzzle, advancing the health of Americans

also entails supporting health services, health economics and other social sciences research to ensure our health care system is inclusive, efficient, and produces high quality care. It is also crucial for our nation

to maintain a rock solid, well-resourced public health system that can rapidly identify and respond to pandemics, bioterrorism and other population health threats.

We ask that you feature these priorities not only in the text of the 2016 platform, but in the preamble. It would be profoundly meaningful for the party to identify faster medical progress – with its roots in public and private sector-fueled medical innovation, a well-resourced public health system, and continuous, research-driven improvement in healthcare delivery – as a top strategic imperative for the US.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if further information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America