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May 23, 2016

The Honorable Deborah Wasserman Schultz
Chairwoman
Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol Street Southeast
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz,

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 Democratic Party Platform.

Research!America was gratified that the 2012 Democratic Party Platform expressed support for the federal investment and private sector innovation needed to accelerate medical progress. 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.

We were also heartened that the platform emphasizes the critical role our nation's public health system plays in addressing threats to health and safety of the American people. As the Platform Committee determines the tenets of the 2016 Democratic Party platform, we respectfully request that you feature the need for faster medical progress and the importance of robust investment in public health even more prominently in the new platform, and also stress the need for greater investment in health services research and other health research disciplines that help ensure our health system is inclusive, efficient, and produces high quality care.

In the section of the 2012 Democratic Platform entitled "Middle Class Bargain," the party asserts that it will "continue to invest in our public health infrastructure – ensuring that we are able to respond to emergencies and support community-based efforts to prevent disease." Later in that same section of the platform, the party states that it will "continue to support America's groundbreaking biomedical researchers in their lifesaving work," and notes that "The President...proposed to double key investments in science to educate the next generation of scientists and engineers (and) encourage private sector innovation..."

Research!America appreciates these and other references to the importance of science, biomedical research, and our nation's public health system in the 2012 platform. 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 investing in a strong and nimble public health system and supporting health research to ensure our healthcare delivery system meets the needs of the American people in an efficient, effective and inclusive manner.

We ask that you feature these priorities not only in the text of the 2016 platform, but in the platform introduction. 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.

In case it proves useful, we have attached suggested platform language 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".

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America