



November 16, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Reid, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Boehner, and Ms. Pelosi:

As advocates for biomedical and health research, we are writing to urge you to refrain from deploying deficit reduction strategies, like sequestration, that would slow medical progress.

Our nation leads the world in biomedical and health research, a function of public sector support and private sector ingenuity. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is unrivaled in spurring the basic discovery that lays the path for private sector innovation. Peer-reviewed NIH funding reaches all 50 states and congressional districts, spurring discovery at universities, hospitals, small businesses, and independent research institutes. In fact, NIH-supported research has:

- Supported nearly 500,000 jobs in 2011 in every state
- Generated \$62 billion in economic activity in 2011
- Helped increase life expectancy from 47 years in 1900 to 78 years in 2009

But this is not just about NIH. The National Science Foundation (NSF), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) all provide a positive return on investment to our nation, protecting American lives and promoting American prosperity.

- NSF's grant portfolio is designed to identify and pursue the best scientific opportunities across the spectrum of scientific disciplines, including biomedical research.
- FDA is a key conduit between medical discovery and medical progress, laying the path for safe and effective medical products to reach the marketplace.
- CDC conducts and supports the public health research needed to contain disease outbreaks, promote wellness, and in other ways provide basic supports for a safe and healthy society; and
- AHRQ combats entrenched and insidious problems in our nation's health care system – like preventable medical errors and needless administrative red tape -- that take lives and inflate the cost of taxpayer funded health programs and private insurance alike.

Disinvesting from biomedical and health research – and the infrastructure and expertise needed to conduct it – would contravene the goal of deficit reduction. This research is one of the fundamental underpinnings of our economy, a reality well understood by other nations, which are ramping up their investment and building out their research infrastructure. Research is a catalyst that creates businesses large and small, and generates jobs in research, manufacturing, distribution, exports, health care and a host of other sectors. Those businesses and jobs supply federal revenue needed to reduce the deficit.

In addition, research can help stem runaway federal healthcare spending, which is driving our deficit. While new treatments may require additional cost at the outset, research has shown the offsetting effects of reduced hospitalizations, fewer visits to providers, reduced home care, a reduction in the Social Security disability roles, and improved productivity. As you well know, the costs of treating diseases like Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other diseases are exploding. There is no high-impact alternative to research as a means of addressing this crisis.

When it comes to the fiscal health of our nation, biomedical and health research are part of the solution, not part of the problem. Whether it is appropriations policy or entitlement and tax reform, we urge you to discard any proposal that cuts funding or mutes incentives for public- and private-sector supported medical innovation. Compassion and pragmatism intersect in the decision to do so.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Hon. Michael Castle

Hon. Patrick Kennedy

Hon. Kweisi Mfume

Hon. John Edward Porter

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Association for Patient-Oriented Research

Association for Research in Vision and
Ophthalmology

Association for Women in Science

Association of American Cancer Institutes

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Association of American Universities

Association of Independent Research
Institutes

Association of Population Centers

Association of Public and Land-grant
Universities

Association of University Research Parks

The California Institute for Regenerative
Medicine

Californians for Cures

Campaign for Public Health

Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of
Medicine of Case Western Reserve
University
Cleveland Medical Devices Inc.
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering
Research
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Colon Cancer Alliance
Community Health Charities of America
Consortium of Universities for Global
Health
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
The Cure Alliance
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America
Damon Runyon Cancer Research
Foundation
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Digestive Disease National Coalition
Endo
FasterCures
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Flocel Inc.
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance
Friends of AHRQ
Friends of the National Institute of Dental
and Craniofacial Research
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing
Research
Friends of the National Institute on Aging
Gastroparesis Patient Association for Cures
and Treatments, Inc.
Genetics Policy Institute

Genetics Society of America
Great Lakes NeuroTechnologies Inc.
Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Hepatitis Foundation International
HIV Medicine Association
IEEE-USA
Infectious Diseases Society of America
The Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
The International Foundation for Functional
Gastrointestinal Disorders
Jackson Gabriel Silver Foundation
Jameson Communications
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Johns Hopkins Medicine
Joint Advocacy Coalition of ACRT, APOR,
CRF, and SCTS
Kids v Cancer
Life Technologies
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute
Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease
Alliance
March of Dimes
Masonic Medical Research Laboratory
Mayo Clinic
Meharry Medical College
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
National Alliance for Eye and Vision
Research
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Brain Tumor Society
National Foundation for Celiac Awareness
National Health Council
National Kidney Foundation
National Marfan Foundation

National Multiple Sclerosis Society
NephCure Foundation
NeuroWave Systems Inc.
New York Stem Cell Foundation
North American Society for the Study of
Celiac Disease
Northeast Ohio Medical University
Northwest Association for Biomedical
Research
Nova Southeastern University
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical
Center
Orbital Research Inc.
Parkinson's Action Network
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Partners HealthCare
Population Association of America
Prevent Blindness America
Pulmonary Fibrosis Advocates
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
Respiratory Health Association
Scleroderma Foundation
The Sleep Research Society
Society for Clinical and Translational
Science
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and
Associates
Society of General Internal Medicine
Student Society for Stem Cell Research
Texas Biomedical Research Institute
Texas Cures Education Foundation

UC Davis Health System
UNC Health Care System
UNC School of Medicine
United for Medical Research
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Pennsylvania School of
Nursing
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
The University of Texas MD Anderson
Cancer Center
The University of Texas Medical Branch
The University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center
USAgainstAlzheimer's
US Hereditary Angiodema Association
US Pain Foundation, Inc.
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Wistar Institute
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber