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October 4, 2013

Dear member of Congress,

On behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest public education and advocacy alliance committed to advancing medical and health research, I am writing to urge you to disassociate yourself from those members on both sides of the aisle who are placing their own political or ideological agendas ahead of their responsibility to lead our country, and demand that House and Senate leadership do what it takes to put an end to the government shutdown.

Enough is enough. Furloughed workers will suffer the consequences of missed paychecks even if their salaries are restored after the shutdown ends. Economics tells us those dollars will be worth less than they are now. Will the federal government pay military and other employees interest to make up for that loss? And what about those families who are living paycheck to paycheck? Help in the future does nothing to prevent children from going to school hungry today.

And what about the Americans for whom a stopped clock on medical research amounts to a death sentence? We trust that you also feel the weight of other tragedies, big and small, this shutdown is perpetuating. It is time to act.

As an individual elected to help lead this nation, we hope you are appalled at the performance of the governing body of which you are a part. We urge you to contact leadership and demand that they begin negotiations to end the shutdown and continue to negotiate around the clock until a solution is found.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Mary Woolley  
President and CEO, Research!America