



March 3, 2017

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hoeven, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Merkley, Ranking Member
Bishop, and Members of the Senate and House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies,

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, we appreciate the complexity of the funding decisions that fall under the
jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies Subcommittee and are grateful for your demonstrated commitment to
advancing the nation's best interests. As you craft appropriations legislation for fiscal year
2018 (FY18), we respectfully ask that you allocate \$2.8 billion to the Food and Drug
Administration (FDA) to continue its vital work of ensuring the safety of our food supply,
and the safety and efficacy of medical innovations.

The responsibilities of the FDA have far-reaching impacts on every American, and support
of this critical agency is necessary to keep Americans safe and healthy. Increased funding
for FDA will empower the agency to keep pace with modern science; validate biomarkers
to safely shorten the time it takes to determine the efficacy of new medical advances; and
assure an efficient and responsible regulatory pathway for combination products,
regenerative therapies, and advanced diagnostics. Stable and predictable growth in funding
would also facilitate FDA's role in advancing the provisions included in the 21st Century
Cures Act, which tasked the FDA with new initiatives and responsibilities.

Given FDA's growing portfolio of responsibilities bearing on the health, safety and prosperity of the
American people, we ask that you provide funding of \$2.8 billion to FDA in FY17. We thank you and
your respective staffs for your hard work and for your consideration of this funding request. We

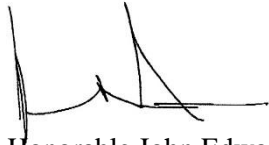
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appreciate that these decisions are not easy and we laud your continued efforts to place America's health and safety at the forefront of your priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Porter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honorable John Edward Porter
Member of Congress 1980-2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Woolley', written in a cursive style.

Mary Woolley
President and CEO Research!America