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

Dear Chairman Hoeven,

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
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,

The Honorable John Edward Porter
Member of Congress 1980-2001

Mary Woolley
President and CEO Research!America