



February 23, 2017

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Dear Representative/ Senator,

Research!America, our nation's largest not-for-profit advocacy and public education alliance committed to faster medical and public health progress, appreciates the challenge Congress faces as it allocates scarce discretionary dollars across numerous federal agencies and programs and the need to carefully prioritize fiscal year 2018 (FY18) spending.

As you determine your appropriations priorities, we hope you will consider including the following requests:

National Institutes of Health: Finding Cures, Saving Lives

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is responsible for spurring faster medical progress, supporting breakthroughs in how we understand and treat deadly and debilitating diseases. The noncommercial basic research NIH conducts and funds at universities, independent research institutes and small businesses across the country lays the foundation for targeted private sector research and development, fueling medical progress and economic growth. Unfortunately, years of virtually flat funding have reduced NIH's inflation-adjusted budget by over 10 percent since 2004.

As it stands, NIH can only fund 21 percent of the research proposals it receives each year, not because that is the proportion of responsible, meritorious and potentially game-changing proposals researchers across the country are equipped to pursue, but because NIH lacks the resources to do more. Americans broadly support faster medical research; in fact, a majority of Americans would be willing to pay a dollar more each week in taxes if they knew it was being devoted to medical research. We ask that you champion a \$2 billion increase in NIH's annual budget to continue the process of restoring lost purchasing power and to capitalize on unprecedented opportunity for fast-paced progress.

In addition we ask that you reinforce the importance of releasing the FY18 21st Century Cures funding for NIH, which is reserved for the Cancer Moonshot, the Precision Medicine Initiative, and other large-scale research initiatives. These initiatives not only hold tremendous promise for accelerating progress against their

specific research goals, but they are being leveraged to strengthen coordination and collaboration between public and private sector innovators and promote patient engagement in the research process.

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Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Making Healthcare Work Better for Patients

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is the premier agency dedicated to health services research (HSR), which focuses on ensuring that health care is delivered at the right time to the right patients in the right settings. HSR guides the development of strategies to address such issues as ensuring medical advances rapidly translate into improved health care in rural as well as urban areas, improving medication adherence, reducing hospital readmission rates, remedying emergency room overcrowding, and combating deadly and costly medical errors. The value of biomedical innovation is intertwined with how health care is delivered, and the research that AHRQ makes possible improves the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of health care while reducing costly red tape and duplication. AHRQ-funded research receives far less attention and support than it deserves given the lifesaving benefits of improving healthcare outcomes and reducing health care costs. We ask that you take a stand on behalf of patients and request an appropriation of \$364 million for AHRQ in FY18.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Our First Line of Biological Defense

In a complex and ever-evolving world, research to better understand and prevent costly pandemics, deadly bioterrorism and debilitating diseases is critical. One of the many ways the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects American citizens is by funding research aimed at stopping the myriad of biothreats that pose an ongoing risk to our nation. Last year's Zika outbreak showcased the CDC's important work in this arena. CDC also plays a profoundly important role in addressing serious health threats such as antibiotic-resistance, which is endangering our ability to combat deadly infections, and equipping state and local health departments to address local public health issues. CDC works on the ground, day in and day out, to protect and advance the health and well-being of every American, and to contain global health threats that, in an interconnected world, are domestic threats as well. Please help strengthen our nation's public health capacity by requesting an appropriation of \$7.8 billion for CDC in FY18.

Food and Drug Administration: Ensuring Medical Advances are Safe and Effective

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees one-quarter of all consumer spending in the United States, including its responsibility for ensuring the integrity of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, biologics and medical devices. Because lives hang in the balance, patients rely on FDA to evaluate the safety and efficacy of new medical products in a thorough manner and without needless delay. This is an increasingly complex task as the science underlying these products rapidly evolves. FDA is also responsible for ensuring ongoing medical product safety and, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, for ensuring the safety of our food supply. We ask that you request an appropriation of \$2.8 billion for FDA in FY18 so that it can fulfill its multi-faceted role in the public health arena.

National Science Foundation: Supporting Basic Research and the Next Generation of Innovators

The National Science Foundation (NSF) supports America's basic research in science and engineering. This research is critical to the innovation process and lays the foundation for novel discoveries across many disciplines. Importantly, NSF's grant portfolio includes funding for social, behavioral and economics research. These disciplines are ever-important as our nation seeks to thwart terrorism, address other forms of criminal behavior, reduce recidivism and confront a plethora of issues intertwined with human behavior and systems dynamics. NSF funding has led to 223 Nobel Prizes, has paved the way for keystone industries like IT and biopharmaceuticals, and enables scientists in America to build the foundations of tomorrow's economy. NSF also helps train the next generation of innovators by strengthening science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education from pre-K through

graduate school and beyond. Please help ensure our nation remains the global leader in science and innovation by requesting an appropriation of \$8 billion in FY18.

Research!America appreciates the difficult task facing Congress as it seeks to simultaneously confront the budget deficit, strengthen the United States and promote the wellbeing of Americans. We firmly believe that robust funding for NIH, AHRQ CDC, FDA and NSF is a means of advancing all three of these fundamental goals. Thank you for your continued support of federally funded medical research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley".

Mary Woolley
President and CEO