



November 29, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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The Hon. Michael N. Castle, Vice Chair  
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Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of Research!America, thank you for your continuing efforts to secure passage of the 21st Century Cures Act. We fully support your efforts.

This legislation reflects more than two years of hard work by members of both parties and both Houses of Congress. It is grounded in input from patients, providers, researchers and other stakeholders from across the health and research ecosystem. The goal is to deliver treatments and cures to people who desperately need them, leveraging science to propel medical progress and ingenuity to identify ways of delivering that progress to patients more efficiently. When it comes to disease, time costs lives. It is right for our nation to be impatient for answers, and it is meaningful that Congress is taking action to help more patients, more quickly.

Importantly, this legislation also takes on two profoundly challenging public health threats: dangerous gaps in access to timely, high-quality mental health care, and a burgeoning epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose.

We urge the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress to pass the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act so that Americans and populations across the globe can benefit from the extraordinary level of bipartisan negotiation, compassion, and unshakable determination that produced this legislation.

Thank you for your leadership and vision.

Sincerely,

Mary Woolley  
President and CEO  
Research!America

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