



February 25, 2016

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Jack T. Watters, MD

Dear Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Farr, and members of the House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies,

We are writing on behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest nonprofit alliance working to accelerate medical progress and strengthen our nation's public health system. The more than 360 Research!America member organizations 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, bipartisan commitment to advancing the nation's best interests. As you craft appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17), we ask that you take the following Food and Drug Administration (FDA) funding request into consideration.

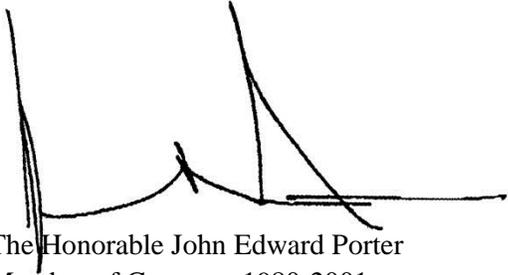
Because of your vision and commitment, the FY16 Omnibus Appropriations bill increased the budget of the FDA to \$2.73 billion, about a five percent increase over the FY15 budget. This allocation has given the FDA greater ability to carry out its mission across many facets of our economy, ranging from overseeing the nation's food supply to ensuring that lifesaving medications are vetted for safety and efficacy. Indeed, the FDA has been successful and resourceful with its past appropriations: In 2015 the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) demonstrated a commitment to getting new treatments to patients by approving 45 novel drugs, more than 40 percent of which treat rare or orphan diseases. In addition, new approaches are being implemented to incorporate the patient voice into the drug and device review process and to modernize FDA's regulatory process in other meaningful ways.

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 would help the agency keep pace with modern science; validating biomarkers to safely shorten the time it takes to determine the efficacy of new medical advances and assuring an efficient and responsible regulatory pathway for combination products, regenerative therapies, and advanced diagnostics. Additional resources would also facilitate FDA's role in advancing key national priorities such as the cancer moonshot, efforts to combat Zika virus, and strategies to ensure a robust antibiotics pipeline as antibiotic resistance compromises existing medicines. 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 \$2.85 billion to FDA in FY17.

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Edward Porter'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.

The Honorable John Edward Porter  
Member of Congress 1980-2001

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

Mary Woolley  
President and CEO Research!America