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October 5, 2013

President Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Research!America sent the following letter yesterday to members of Congress. We must request that you also take a far more proactive approach to ending this stalemate. It appears that both political parties are waiting for the other party to blink, which is a grossly inadequate response to a crisis that only does more damage to Americans with time. Please invite Congressional leaders back to the White House and find a means bridge what we know is a divide fraught with deep divides. Both parties must summon the will to abandon siloed objectives and put Americans, and America, first. As our President, please lead the way.

Sincerely

Mary Woolley
President and CEO, Research!America

October 4, 2013

Dear member of Congress,

On behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest public education and advocacy alliance committed to advancing medical and health research, I am writing to urge you to disassociate yourself from those members on both sides of the aisle who are placing their own political or ideological agendas ahead of their responsibility to lead our country, and demand that House and Senate leadership do what it takes to put an end to the government

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shutdown.

Enough is enough. Furloughed workers will suffer the consequences of missed paychecks even if their salaries are restored after the shutdown ends. Economists tell us those dollars will be worth less then than they are now. Will the federal government pay military and other employees interest to make up for that loss? And what about those families who are living paycheck to paycheck? Help in the future does nothing to prevent children from going to school hungry today.

And what about the Americans for whom a stopped clock on medical research amounts to a death sentence? We trust that you also feel the weight of other tragedies, big and small, this shutdown is perpetuating. It is time to act.

As an individual elected to help lead this nation, we hope you are appalled at the performance of the governing body of which you are a part. We urge you to contact leadership and demand that they begin negotiations to end the shutdown and continue to negotiate around the clock until a solution is found.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Mary Woolley
President and CEO, Research!America