

# ROLL CALL

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## LETTERS

### Medical Research Funding Critical

In so many ways, my father is a hero.

My mother and I were not the only ones to notice that he made everything he touched better. In Congress he was a champion for health, fighting to give America cleaner air and cleaner water, and hope in the fight against cancer.

He was a voice for research to improve health for 53 years, earning him the title "Mr. Health." And last fall, we lost my father, the Hon. Paul Grant Rogers, at age 87.

As we begin a new year without him, I find myself wondering who the new heroes will be. Who will continue to fight for the welfare of Americans? Like all Americans, I expect that our new

president and Congress will take action to reform our ailing health care system. But, as my father would want me to remind them, "Without research, there is no hope."

Research to improve health is one of the best investments Congress can make on behalf of taxpayers. Research is an economic driver, yet the National Institutes of Health and other research agencies have seen their resources undercut since 2003, slowing science, putting people out of work and forcing patients and their families to wait longer for better cures, treatments and prevention.

In response to this dangerous trend, Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) is calling for a \$10 billion re-investment in NIH in the economic recovery package. These funds would benefit every state by creating jobs and intellectual capital as NIH funds get routed

across the country to research labs, universities, institutions, hospitals, health departments and companies.

Specter is a long-standing champion for research, but the American people need to hear a chorus of Congressional voices in support of better health.

So many people are healthier today because my father was an advocate for health. We may never be able to measure the lives saved because my father was a tireless champion for the NIH during his time.

Now it is our time. Our time to defend and support investments in research. Our time to advocate for policies that will help our children lead longer, happier, healthier lives. Our time to become the voices of a new generation.

Will you be a new voice for research?

**Laing Rogers Sisto**

*Daughter of the late  
Rep. Paul Rogers (D-Fla.)*



Rogers