March 3, 2017

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairman Culberson, Ranking Member Shaheen, Ranking Member Serrano, and Members of the Senate and House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies,

On behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest not-for-profit education and advocacy alliance working to accelerate medical progress and strengthen our nation's public health system, we appreciate the complexity of the funding decisions that fall under the jurisdiction of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee and are grateful for your demonstrated commitment to advancing the nation's best interests. As you craft appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2018 (FY18), we respectfully ask that you allocate $8 billion to the National Science Foundation (NSF) to carry out its strategically crucial mission and objectives.

The NSF has assured U.S. leadership and innovation across a diverse range of strategically important science and technology disciplines, including basic and social sciences research, economics, computer science, and engineering in more than 1,800 academic institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. territories. The NSF funds over 300,000 researchers, including over 220 Nobel Prize winners, keeping them, and our nation, at the forefront of their respective fields.

Grants from the NSF have not only laid the foundation for keystone industries like IT and biopharmaceuticals, but have also helped to thwart terrorism, address other forms of criminal behavior, reduce recidivism, and confront the many areas where human behavior and systems dynamics are deeply intertwined. NSF-funded research bears on virtually every sector of our economy, supports cybersecurity and other crucial areas of national security, and factor importantly into the productive use of "big data" and other highly promising avenues of medical research.

We ask that you ensure our nation reaps the multifaceted benefits of a strong NSF by providing $8 billion in funding for FY18. Thank you and your respective staffs for your hard work and your consideration of

these funding requests. We appreciate that these decisions are not easy, and we laud your continued efforts to place science and technology innovation at the forefront of your priorities.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John Edward Porter
 Member of Congress 1980-2001

Mary Woolley
President and CEO Research!America