



November 12, 2015

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**IN MEMORIAM**

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The Honorable Roy Blunt  
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and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole and  
Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am 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. We appreciate your committed leadership over the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-H). As you consider funding for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), we ask that you provide at least \$33.3 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), \$7.8 billion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and \$375 million to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Each of these agencies plays a vital role in America’s health and economic prosperity. NIH is the premier publically-funded biomedical research institution in the world; CDC is the global leader in public health response and research; and AHRQ provides world-class research, data, and measures to make our nation’s healthcare system better for patients and weed out wasted spending in stewardship of America’s fiscal future. Yet, in the face of decreased funding, medical progress is at risk.

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NIH is approving grants for life-saving research at a historically low rate; not because of fewer highly promising research proposals, but because funding so profoundly lags behind scientific potential. CDC's work to minimize the harm from recent *E. coli* outbreaks, H1N1 flu cases and dengue fever is emblematic of the critical role the agency plays in securing the health and safety of Americans; it also underscores the potentially deadly consequences of leaving CDC insufficiently equipped to fulfil its crucial mission. And with healthcare costs higher than anywhere else in the world, our nation cannot afford complacency. AHRQ leverages the power of health services research to weed out needless spending and optimize health outcomes, saving lives and dollars.

Research!America appreciates the difficult task facing the subcommittees as they work to simultaneously confront the budget deficit, strengthen the U.S. and promote the wellbeing of Americans. However, funding for NIH, CDC and AHRQ is a crucial opportunity to advance all three objectives. There are few federal investments that confer as many benefits as funding for NIH, CDC and AHRQ: new cures, new businesses, new jobs; a public health system nimble and sophisticated enough to address both predictable and unpredictable health threats; and innovative solutions that improve healthcare delivery and optimize the use of limited health dollars.

We believe that allocating at least \$33.3 billion to the NIH, \$7.8 billion to the CDC and \$375 million to AHRQ is a pragmatic strategy for securing a safer and healthier future for our country. We thank you and your respective staffs for your hard work and for your consideration of these funding requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley".

Mary Woolley  
President and CEO