



April 14, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of Research!America, a nonprofit, nonpartisan alliance advocating for faster medical and public health progress, thank you for the hard work you and your respective staff members are devoting to ensuring we as a nation are successfully responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bipartisan efforts in Congress have contributed in profoundly important ways to public and private sector research and development, catalyzing our understanding of the disease and the development of diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments. As the pandemic continues, we urge you to move expeditiously to secure passage of the pending \$10 billion COVID-19 funding package.

We perceive this funding as an essential piece of the puzzle as our nation continues to fight COVID-19 and carves a path to global pandemic security over the long-term. [A recent survey](#) commissioned by Research!America found that 71% of respondents agree that the COVID-19 pandemic is a disruptive event and requires that the U.S. assign a higher priority to science & technology. Increased focus and funding for research and development (R&D) will generate progress that is additive to the hard-earned knowledge already uncovered by public and private sector-funded scientists as they have fought COVID-19 and other global infectious threats. As that knowledge base grows, so does the ability of the R&D and public health ecosystems to out-innovate potential pandemics wherever and whenever they arise.

The R&D you empower now, and the additional work that must be done to understand and prepare for other viral threats, are not simply investments in medical and public health progress; they are investments in life expectancy, job security, economic stability, and U.S influence in the global sphere. If our nation bows to COVID-19 and chooses passivity over aggressiveness against the [ever-](#)

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[increasing threat of another pandemic](#), those choices would place millions of lives and trillions of dollars in jeopardy. We must continue to fight and keep fighting until no viral threat emerging anywhere can rob Americans of hope, financial security, and time.

After the current state and district work periods end, please present a unified front against efforts to derail COVID-19 progress, and work together to secure passage of the \$10 billion COVID-19 funding package right away. Under your leadership, Congress has stepped up several times before to provide the resources needed to combat this pandemic. For the sake of Americans and the global community within which our nation has earned a leadership role, please rise to the challenge again. By providing the COVID-19 funding needed now and then acting quickly to empower an aggressive R&D strategy against other high risk viral families, you will champion a future in which neither COVID-19 nor any other global infectious threat can ever again foment suffering, discord, and death in the U.S. and around the globe.

Please call on Research!America to aid your efforts in any way we can. Thank you for your consideration, and please express our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of your respective staff members.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Woolley
President & CEO
Research!America