



June 16, 2020

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The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

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

We greatly appreciate your continued bipartisan commitment to responding resolutely and responsibly to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the extreme impacts of COVID-19 is the destabilizing and stultifying effect on progress against the plethora of other deadly and debilitating diseases that threaten Americans and populations across the globe. We are writing to urge you to coalesce around two actions to empower desperately needed, lifesaving progress.

First, we ask that you provide the funding needed to restart research stalled or reprogrammed as a result of the pandemic. NIH Director Francis Collins has indicated that NIH alone needs \$10 billion to address erosion in grant dollars. Funding of \$26 billion is the minimum needed to re-seed the U.S. R&D continuum across all federal research funding, and to address gaps in voluntary health organization and philanthropic research funding resulting from the pandemic.

Second, we ask that you craft Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations in a way that accommodates unanticipated, but critically important, pandemic and VA funding needs while continuing to advance other top American priorities. The current budget caps were established before COVID-19 altered virtually every facet of American life. The pandemic did not, however, alter the importance of such enduring priorities as meeting the needs of our nation's veterans and speeding progress against cancer, Alzheimer's, and other destructive health threats. We ask that you exempt funding for the VA MISSION Act and pandemic-related

spending from the budget caps to enable robust growth in the annual budgets of NIH, CDC, FDA, AHRQ and other research agencies critical to medical and public health progress.

We appreciate your consideration of these two pivotally important actions. Thank you, and please express our gratitude to your respective staff members, for your exceptionally hard work on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Woolley  
President and CEO  
Research!America

CC

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
The Honorable Nita Lowey  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Kay Granger  
The Honorable Roy Blunt  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Tom Cole