



March 14, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr,

I serve as the President and CEO of the nonprofit, nonpartisan research advocacy alliance, Research!America. It is my understanding that an amendment may be offered during mark-up of the PREVENT Pandemics Act that would remove Dr. Anthony Fauci from the role of Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). On behalf of Research!America, I am writing to express strong opposition to this proposed action.

We are deeply concerned by the dangerous precedent that would be created by removing a public health official for “representing science,” in other words, advising the President and Americans to the best of their ability based on the data and current knowledge available on a quickly evolving health threat.

Further, channeling skepticism about data-informed advice into attacks on individual public health officials poses a risk to every individual who makes data-informed decisions...and that is all of us. From factory workers to small business owners to surgeons to parents, every individual holding responsibilities makes data-informed decisions.

Dr. Fauci is an extraordinary leader who has navigated the life and death complexities of an unpredictable global crisis with integrity, expertise, candor, and empathy. We believe Dr. Fauci would not want this letter in opposition to the proposed amendment to be about one individual. He tries to be a force for all of us, regardless of our individual views, and we hope that in the same spirit, this amendment is withdrawn. To defeat this and other threats bearing down on us all, we must come together to work through differences of opinion and perspective, not weaponize those differences.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Wooley
President and CEO
Research!America