



October 9, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority 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

OFFICERS

The Hon. Michael N. Castle, Chair
The Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Vice Chair
Mary Woolley, President
E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Secretary
Sudip S. Parikh, PhD, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Tenley E. Albright, MD
Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Nancy Brown
Susan Dentzer
Victor J. Dzau, MD
Suzan Fitzpatrick, PhD
Jay A. Gershen, DDS, PhD
The Hon. Bart Gordon
William N. Hait, MD, PhD
Larry Hausner, MBA
Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD
The Hon. Rush D. Holt, PhD
Elizabeth Baker Keffer
Debra R. Lappin, JD
Alan I. Leshner, PhD
James L. Madara, MD
Lucinda Maine, PhD, RPh
Mark McClellan, MD, PhD
Herbert Pardes, MD
Harold L. Paz, MD, MS
Guillermo Prado, PhD
Derek Rapp
Gary M. Reedy
Amy Comstock Rick, JD
Laing Rogers
Larry J. Shapiro, MD
Gregory Sorensen, MD
Keith R. Yamamoto, PhD
Elias A. Zerhouni, MD

CHAIR EMERITUS

The Hon. John Edward Porter

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

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

Dear Congressional Leadership,

On behalf of Research!America, thank you for your extraordinary efforts, and those of your dedicated staff members, to avoid another continuing resolution (CR) by completing the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process before the current CR expires on November 21, 2019. We appreciate that securing final appropriations legislation is a daunting task, but the consequences of failing in this task are untenable for the American people.

The stultifying impact of CRs on medical and public health progress is illustrative: Each year, more than 145,000 Americans lose their lives before age 45 to physical and mental illness. Because personal loss is a tragedy, not a statistic, it is impossible to fully capture the devastating impact of so many lives cut short. However, it is possible to deploy science, coupled with public health vigilance, to successfully fight back. From antibiotics to vaccines to magnetic imaging to immunology, history proves that life-saving progress is achievable.

The National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Science Foundation fuel progress that restores health and saves lives. CRs hamstring these agencies, stalling momentum and breeding uncertainty.

By defaulting to previous year funding levels and forcing federal agencies to tread water rather than respond responsibly and strategically to dynamic circumstances, CRs squander the potential for desperately needed medical advances, stymie nimble response to public health threats, and lock in any spending that no longer makes sense, which needlessly drains dollars from taxpayer pockets. Our nation deserves better.

241 18th Street South
Suite 501
Arlington, VA 22202

P 703.739.2577

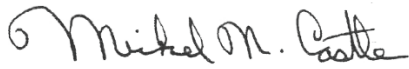
F 703.739.2372

E info@researchamerica.org

We stand ready to support your efforts as you work to finish the FY20 appropriations process in a manner that empowers our nation to fight harder against deadly and debilitating diseases that – directly and indirectly – pose a threat to us all.

Thank you for your vision and leadership.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Michael N. Castle
Chair, Member of Congress 1993-2011



Mary Woolley
President and CEO

CC The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Kay Granger