RESEARCH AMERICA
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH®

1101 King Street
Suite 520
Alexandria, VA 22314-2960
P 703.739.2577
F 703.739.2372
E info@researchamerica.org
www.researchamerica.org

February 25, 2016

Dear Chairman Culberson, Ranking Member Honda, and Members of the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies,

We write to you on behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest nonprofit alliance working to accelerate medical progress and strengthen our nation's public health system. The more than 360 member organizations that comprise Research!America appreciate the complexity of the funding decisions that fall under the jurisdiction of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee and are grateful for your demonstrated, bipartisan commitment to advancing the nation's best interest by supporting science. As you consider Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) appropriations, we ask that you take the following funding requests into consideration.

We are grateful that the FY16 Omnibus Appropriations bill increased the budget of the National Science Foundation (NSF) by 1.6 percent or $119 million. By continuing to grow the NSF budget, our nation can ensure we maintain our global lead in science and technology, fuel economic growth, and meet emerging challenges to the health and security of the American people. We therefore request that you provide at least $8 billion for the NSF in FY17.

Over the past 65 years, the NSF has faithfully pursued its mission of promoting the progression of science, strengthening the national defense, and advancing national health and prosperity. The NSF has advanced leadership and innovation across a diverse range of strategically important science and technology disciplines, including basic and social sciences research, economics, computer science, and engineering in more than 1,800 academic institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. territories. An estimated 350,000 students, teachers, researchers, and postdoctoral fellows were supported by the NSF in 2015 alone. Almost 90% of NSF funding is allocated to grants or cooperative agreements to researchers through a competitive merit review process. Since 1950, the NSF has supported well over 200 Nobel Prize winners, including three in 2015. The studies supported by NSF bear on virtually every sector of our economy, support cybersecurity and other crucial areas of national security, and factor importantly into the productive use of "big data" and other highly promising avenues of medical research.

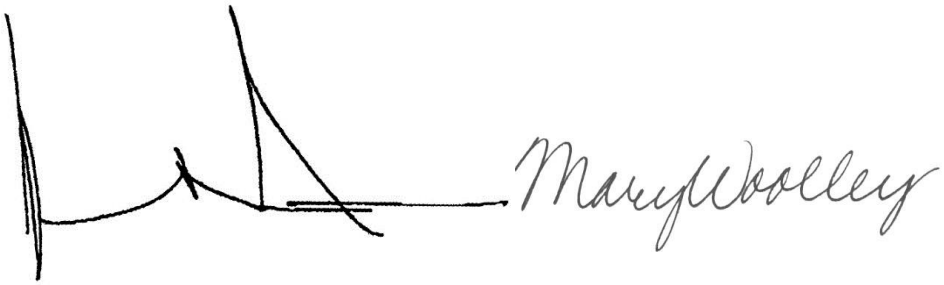
In an effort to maintain the United States' role as the global leader in scientific research and education, the NSF has supported a number of high risk, but transformative projects

that have resulted in groundbreaking discoveries in 2015. In an effort to connect physical therapy with wounded veterans too far from treatment facilities, NSF-funded researchers at the University of Texas developed a rehabilitation system that uses real-time video, 3D computer-generated worlds, and sensory feedback devices to recreate a physical therapy session between a patient and a therapist. This new innovation in telemedicine allows for rehabilitation from serious ailments, such as broken bones and stroke, over long distances through high-speed networks.

Advancements in telemedicine, along with other modernization in treatments and their delivery to patients, necessitate top notch privacy and security measures. The NSF sponsored exciting innovations in the area of cybersecurity and encryption this past year which are pivotal for keeping the government, private sector, and individual citizens safe while online. Much of this work would have never been possible without previous NSF investments in computer science, math, statistics, psychology and economics.

We ask that you ensure our nation reaps the multifaceted benefits of a strong NSF by providing $8 billion in funding for FY17. Thank you and your respective staffs for your hard work and your consideration of these funding requests. We appreciate that these decisions are not easy, and we laud your continued efforts to place science and technology innovation at the forefront of your priorities.

Sincerely,



The Honorable John Edward Porter
Member of Congress 1980-2001

Mary Woolley
President and CEO Research!America