June 8, 2023

The Hon. Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
154 Russell SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
413 Dirksen SOB
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Kay Granger
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
2308 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Granger, Vice Chair Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of Research!America, thank you for your leadership as the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) appropriations process resumes under Fiscal Responsibility Act-established spending parameters. We truly appreciate your efforts, and those of your respective staff members, to allocate federal funding in a manner that serves the national interest and public good.

Knowing that you face challenging trade-offs, we urge you to empower funding growth for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and our nation’s other research and public health agencies.

Equipping our nation’s science and public health agencies to redouble their impact is fundamental to the health, security, and prosperity of the American people, whether the objective is to:

- Capitalize on the unprecedented potential to prevent, treat, and end diseases that rob all of us of loved ones, health, and time;
- Position the United States to defeat – rather than be defeated by – a future pandemic, chemical attack, or other crisis-level biosecurity breach;
- Bolster U.S. economic competitiveness as China and other nations aggressively invest – both domestically and internationally – in science and technology capacity-building and output; or
- Sustain scientific and technological self-determination and security as artificial intelligence and cyberterrorism rapidly evolve.

In a national public opinion survey Research!America commissioned earlier this year, a majority of respondents, regardless of political affiliation, agreed that the U.S. should devote more tax dollars to science & technology (S&T). As this and
other findings from this survey reinforce, Americans clearly recognize the multi-faceted significance of S&T investment.

Our nation is at a crossroads: the decisions we make now will determine whether the U.S. economy sinks or swims; whether deadly and debilitating health threats continue their treacherous reign or lose their power over us; whether we shape cutting edge technology or it shapes us. We urge you, as leaders with tremendous influence over federal funding strategy, to assure NIH, NSF, and our nation’s other science, technology, and public health agencies receive the boosted funding they demonstrably need to advance American prosperity, security, and hope.

Thank you, and please extend our thanks to members of your respective teams, for all you do on behalf of us all.

Sincerely,

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America