



September 12, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries, and Leader McConnell,

On behalf of Research!America, thank you for your ongoing efforts to navigate the complex appropriations process.

As we approach the end of Fiscal Year 2024, we understand that it is vital to avoid a government shutdown by passing a continuing resolution (CR) that keeps the government funded beyond Sept. 30. We are deeply concerned, however, about the potential for a long-term CR that shifts accountability for completing Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations from the 118th to the 119th Congress. We urge you to prevent a government shutdown and arrive at a CR that sustains momentum for completing the appropriations process as soon as possible, minimizing the negative effects of CRs on medical progress, public health security, business and job growth, and other long-standing priorities of the American people.

While the economic losses associated with government shutdowns are the tip of the iceberg in terms of their detrimental impact, these losses alone should deter Congress from defaulting to a government shutdown. The five-week partial shutdown in 2018-2019 [reduced the GDP by at least \\$3 billion](#). The 16-day shutdown in 2013 [reduced the GDP by an estimated \\$20 billion](#).

The impact of government shutdowns and CRs on medical research and other U.S. research & development is emblematic of the needless toll these appropriations delays exact. Shutdowns and CRs create stultifying investment uncertainty that reverberates across our nation's public-private sector R&D ecosystem. Despite the significance of U.S R&D leadership globally and rapid medical progress, shutdowns and CRs essentially freeze the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and other research agencies in time. The failure of Congress and the administration to complete the annual appropriations process and the increasingly lengthy delays before final appropriations levels are established have real-world consequences for patients and families waiting for new treatments and cures.

Public opinion supports actions that strengthen our nation's R&D capabilities and accelerate medical progress. A national public opinion survey Research!America commissioned earlier this year found that an overwhelming majority, 9 out of 10, believe investing in research is important to economic growth and creating jobs. Even more striking: 64% believe investing in research is very important to achieving those objectives. ([Research!America Annual Poll Data Summary, p16](#)) Further, [88% of Americans](#) believe it is important for the U.S. to be a global leader in research to improve health and [77% of Americans](#) are concerned that China will surpass the U.S. as the world's leading science and technology power. Our nation must drive forward, not tread water.

We urge you to negotiate a bipartisan, short-term CR that avoids a government shutdown and reaffirms that the 118th Congress is committed to completing the FY25 appropriations process by the end of this calendar year. Thank you for considering our views and for all you and your respective staff members do to promote the best interests of us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Woolley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America