



November 19, 2025

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The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the [Research!America](#) Board and our more than 300 member organizations across the nation, we commend your bipartisan efforts on the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee.

As negotiations proceed on a final FY26 LHHS bill, we strongly support the Committee's proposal to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$400 million above FY25 levels.

We also appreciate the Subcommittee's decision to reject steep proposed cuts to other key public health and research agencies, including the CDC, ARPA-H, and AHRQ. We urge Congress to prioritize the Senate's funding levels for NIH, ARPA-H, CDC, and AHRQ in the final FY26 appropriations bill.

With the ever-present threat of emerging infectious diseases and the strategic importance of medical countermeasure development, we respectfully support the \$1.1 billion funding level for BARDA included in the House FY26 LHHS bill.

Research!America strongly supports the [multi-year funding](#) provision included in the Senate FY26 proposal and urges you to include the language in any final FY26 appropriations bill. This provision allows NIH to increase the use of multi-year funding only to the extent that it does not reduce the total number of new and competing grants below FY24 levels. Without such a guardrail, a rapid shift to multi-year funding would dramatically reduce the number of grants, causing unintended harm to U.S. research infrastructure, the potential inherent in attracting as many impactful and innovative grant proposals as possible, and the goal of bolstering research capacity outside research-intensive areas of the country.

We also appreciate the Committee's decision to maintain language protecting against an abrupt change in indirect cost reimbursement policies, another safeguard essential to sustaining U.S. research infrastructure and productivity across America.

Your bipartisan efforts on the FY26 LHHS bill demonstrate a rock-solid commitment to fighting disease – understanding it, preventing it, and ending it – as an enduring priority of the American people. A national public opinion survey Research!America commissioned earlier this year found that a majority of Americans, across the political spectrum, believe the United States should [invest more tax dollars in science and technology](#) and that President Trump and Congress [should assign a higher priority to ensuring faster medical progress](#).

As negotiations continue, we respectfully encourage Congress to enact the highest possible funding levels for our nation's federal research and public health agencies, maintain language protecting indirect cost reimbursement policies, and retain the multi-year funding provision. Together, these actions will accelerate the search for ways to prevent, treat, and cure deadly and disabling health threats, strengthen preparedness against future health threats, and bolster the health and economic well-being of the nation.

With appreciation and continued partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Woolley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Woolley" clearly distinguishable.

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America