

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
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 Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts, and those of your dedicated staff members, to address the myriad challenges facing our nation. We write to urge you to avoid another continuing resolution (CR) by completing the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations process before the current CR expires on December 3, 2021. 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 dangerous impact of CRs is clear: in the science & technology realm, CRs stall progress, even though our nation cannot afford stasis. Whether the measure is the health and wellbeing of Americans and populations across the globe, U.S. economic competitiveness, or our ability to develop solutions to a host of challenges that our nation faces -- from health security to water security to energy security to national security -- our ability to advance is compromised by a budget that stalls crucial science, technology, and engineering advances and is clearly misaligned with current opportunity and need.

Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 145,000 Americans lost their lives before age 45 to physical and mental illness each year. For far too many Americans, COVID-19 is a health threat on top of other health threats that they have been battling for years and, in some cases, all of their lives. Between 25 and 30 million people in the United States,¹ many of them children, are living with a rare disease; nearly 17 million are battling cancer;² at least 10 million face a serious mental illness;³ more than six million are struggling with Alzheimer's;⁴ and over 34 million are living with diabetes.⁵ That is only a small fraction of the number of people in our country living with a disease or debilitating condition.

¹National Institute for Children's Health Quality. *Rare Diseases Deserve Our Attention*. Boston: National Institute for Children's Health Quality; n.d.

²American Cancer Society. *Cancer Treatment & Survivorship Facts & Figures 2019-2021*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2019.

³National Alliance on Mental Illness. *Mental Health Facts in America*. Arlington: National Alliance on Mental Illness; n.d.

⁴Alzheimer's Association. *2021 Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures*. Chicago: Alzheimer's Association; 2021.

⁵Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2020*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services; 2020.

Americans want our nation to fight back. According to a national public opinion survey Research!America commissioned just before the pandemic emerged in the U.S., 88% of Americans believe it is important for the President and Congress to assign a high priority to ensuring faster medical progress.⁶

The National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Science Foundation and the full array of R&D-critical federal agencies fuel progress that restores health, saves lives, and fosters prosperity. CRs hamstringing these agencies, stalling momentum and breeding stultifying uncertainty. Further, CRs extend spending that may no longer make sense, needlessly draining dollars from taxpayer pockets. The American people deserve better.

We stand ready to support your efforts as you work to complete the FY22 appropriations process in a manner that empowers the U.S. to escalate the battle against deadly and debilitating diseases and other urgent threats that – directly and indirectly – pose a threat to us all.

Thank you for your vision and leadership.

Sincerely,

Research!America
5p- Society
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical
Imaging Research
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
Aequor Inc.
Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
ALS Association
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Nursing
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Cancer Research
American Association for Dental, Oral, and
Craniofacial Research
American Association for the Advancement
of Science
American Association for the Study of Liver
Diseases
American Association of Colleges of
Pharmacy
American Association of Immunologists

American Association of Physicists in
Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of Veterinary
Medical Colleges
American Brain Coalition
American Cancer Society Cancer Action
Network
American Chemical Society
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Radiology
Americans for Medical Progress
American Dental Education Association
American Institute for Medical and
Biological Engineering
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Physics
American Institute of Ultrasound in
Medicine
American Kidney Fund
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society

⁶Research!America. *Americans' Views on Funding for Science, Medical, and Health Research*. Research!America; 2020.

American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Investigative Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Virology
American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Human Genetics
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Thoracic Society
Anantha Shekhar MD, PhD, Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
Arachnoiditis Society for Awareness and Prevention
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC)
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Clinical Research Organizations
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Autoimmune Association
AVS - The Society for Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing
Barth Syndrome Foundation
Bateman Horne Center
Beyond Celiac
Biophysical Society
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston University

CancerCare
Cancer Support Community
Chalk Talk Science Project
Children's Cancer Cause
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
College of Graduate Health Sciences, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
College of Health and Human Services, George Mason University
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Cure HHT
CureSHANK
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Dan Rosenblum BMC, LLC
Derek Buhl
Dr. Ana Vergara
EB Research Partnership
Emory University
Endocrine Society
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (FNINR)
Foundation Fighting Blindness
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
Genetic Alliance
Genetics Society of America
Global Council for Science and the Environment
Global Health Technologies Coalition
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Global Liver Institute
Greg Merrell
HealthyWomen

Hydrocephalus Association
IBM
I-ACT for Children
International Biomedical Research Alliance
International Foundation for Autoimmune &
Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiArthritis)
International Society for Magnetic
Resonance in Medicine
Janet Zwack
JDRF
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
JL Angell
John A. Burns School of Medicine, Univ. of
Hawaii
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on
Alzheimer's Disease)
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
Lymphoma Research Foundation
Mary Ann Liebert Inc.
Massachusetts General Cancer Center and
Harvard Medical School
Medical College of Wisconsin
Melissa Kacena
Missouri Cures
MitoAction
MLD Foundation
Morehouse School of Medicine
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America
National Alliance for Eye and Vision
Research
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association for Biomedical
Research
National Association of Veterans' Research
& Education Foundations
National Foundation to End Child Abuse
and Neglect
National MS Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Organization of Research
Development Professionals (NORDP)
NBIA Disorders Association
NDRI
New England Biolabs

New York Academy of Medicine
North American Vascular Biology
Organization
Open Medicine Foundation
Oregon Health & Science University
Organic Acidemia Association
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation
PBM Foundation
Physician Assistant Education Association
Population Association of America
Prevent Blindness
Prostate Cancer Foundation
PXE International
Rare and Undiagnosed Network (RUN)
Rosalind Franklin Society
Science and Technology Action Committee
Scleroderma Foundation
Shepherd University
Sjogren's Foundation
Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute
Society for Advancement of Violence and
Injury Research (SAVIR)
Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
(SITC)
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Radiology
Society for the Psychological Study of
Social Issues
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular
Imaging
Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
Spina Bifida Association
Stony Brook Medicine
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences
University
Susan G. Komen
The American Society of Tropical Medicine
& Hygiene
The Gerontological Society of America
The Marfan Foundation
The Ohio State University

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
The Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) Foundation
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
The Wistar Institute
TSC Alliance
Tulane University School of Medicine
United Leukodystrophy Foundation
Univ. of Cincinnati Col. of Med.
University of California Irvine School of Medicine
University of Colorado Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine
University of Maryland School of Medicine
University of Miami

University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus
UTHealth | The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
University of Virginia
University of Washington
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
Usher 1F Collaborative
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Washington University
Wayne State University, Office of the President
Yale School of Public Health
Yale University
ZERO - The End of Prostate Cancer