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.

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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 hamstring 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

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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