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, many of them children, are living with a rare disease; nearly 17 million are battling cancer; at least 10 million face a serious mental illness; more than six million are struggling with Alzheimer’s; and over 34 million are living with diabetes. 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

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
American College of Radiology
Americans for Medical Progress
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Education Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute for Medical and Biological Sciences
American Institute of Physics
American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine
American Kidney Fund
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society

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 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