



July 11, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi and Schumer,

The undersigned organizations are grateful for your determined and successful efforts to secure an omnibus spending bill in fiscal year 2017 (FY17). On a bipartisan basis, you demonstrated a steadfast commitment to producing a federal budget that is not frozen in time, but rather responds to current and evolving challenges, opportunities and strategic priorities. In that context, we urge you to negotiate another bipartisan budget agreement that advances the nation’s health and raises the non-defense and defense spending caps established under the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA).

After two rounds of sequestration relief, the sequestration spending caps will come back into full force in FY18, undercutting key national priorities including faster medical progress. We appreciate that the original intent of these caps was to promote fiscal discipline, but the practical effect flouts that intent. While the caps are counterproductive in numerous ways, underinvesting in research is a powerful case in point.

With the FY17 omnibus, the 115th Congress took up the mantle from the 114th and continued to rebuild the budget of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This ongoing effort to provide sustained funding for NIH not only reflects Americans’ overwhelming support for faster medical progress, it is also tactical.

NIH research catalyzes private sector innovation and creates jobs. And the research NIH supports is pivotal to fiscal stability: if our nation does not conquer illnesses like Alzheimer’s and cancer, the costs of those health threats alone jeopardize our nation’s long-term fiscal security. Further, the research conducted at NIH provides important

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tools for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as it confronts drug-resistant super bugs, the ever-present threat of pandemics, epidemics, bioterrorism, and other public health threats. Discretionary funding supports American priorities and fiscal imperatives; the sequestration caps undermine them.

Whether the challenge before us is fiscal, economic, health or security-related, Americans do not acquiesce to threats, we end them. Our nation must not block its own path by forsaking strategic investments. We urge you to forge another bipartisan budget deal that increases the spending caps and overrides sequestration, setting the stage for a safe, prosperous and healthy future.

Sincerely,

Research!America

Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health

Academy for Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research

Academy of Women's Health

ACRIA

Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research

ADAP Advocacy Association (aaa+)

Adult Congenital Heart Association

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)

Alpha-1 Foundation

American Aging Association (AGE)

American Association for Dental Research

American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association for Women Radiologists

American Association of Anatomists

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine
American Association on Health and Disability
American Brain Coalition
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
American College of Radiology
American Dental Education Association
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine
American Lung Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Roentgen Ray Society
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Cell Biology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Emergency Radiology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
American Thoracic Society
Americans for Medical Progress
Ann & Robert Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Arthur S. Levine, MD
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Universities
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Graduate and Medical Departments of Biochemistry, AMGDB
Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI)
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of University Radiologists (AUR)
AVAC
Behavior Genetics Association
Biophysical Society
Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation
Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation (ALCF)
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Bronx Community Health Network
Case Western Reserve University
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Community Access National Network (CANN)

Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Duke University School of Medicine
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Endocrine Society
Eta Sigma Gamma
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Foundation for Vaccine Research
Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
George Washington University
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Global Justice Institute
Hepatitis Foundation International
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
HIV Medicine Association
Huntington Medical Research Institutes
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation
International Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia Foundation (IWMF)
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Kent State University
Lakeshore Foundation

Louisiana State University
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
March of Dimes
Mary Ann Liebert Inc.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mended Hearts and Mended Little Hearts
METAvivor
Metropolitan Community Churches
Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University
Mind Research Network
Mom2Mom Global
Morehouse School of Medicine
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Birth Defects Prevention Network
National Black Justice Coalition
National Blood Clot Alliance
National CMV Foundation
National Infusion Center Association (NICA)
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities (NOND)
National Organization of Rare Diseases (NORD)
National Pancreas Foundation
National WIC Association
NephCure Kidney International

Northwest Association for Biomedical Research
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)
NYU Langone Medical Center
Oral Health America
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation
Population Association of America
Project Inform
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Radiological Society of North America
ResearchersAgainstAlzheimers
Rosalind Franklin Society
Safe States Alliance
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Scleroderma Foundation
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society
Sleep Research Society
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Radiology
Society for Public Health Education
Society of Breast Imaging
Society of Computed Body Tomography & Magnetic Resonance
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of Interventional Radiology Foundation
Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound
Society of Skeletal Radiology
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute.

Supporters of Agricultural Research (Soar Foundation)

Susan G. Komen

The American Physiological Society

The American Society of Clinical Oncology

The American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

The Clinical Research Forum

The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research at Northwell Health

The Global Health Technologies Coalition

The Hydrocephalus Association

The Marfan Foundation

The Medical Image Perception Society (MIPS)

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

The National Disease Research Initiative

The Organic Acidemia Association

The Progeria Research Foundation

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

The Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments (SCARD)

The United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation

The University at Buffalo

The Veterans Health Council

The Wistar Institute

Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance

U.S. Breastfeeding Committee

U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association

UAB School of Medicine

United for Medical Research

University of California, Riverside

University of Massachusetts Medical School

University of Pittsburgh

University of Washington

USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute

Vietnam Veterans of America

Wayne State University

Weill Cornell Medicine

World Molecular Imaging Society

Yale University

Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University

Young Invincibles