



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 115<sup>th</sup> Congress took up the mantle from the 114<sup>th</sup> 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