

March 24, 2021

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of Research!America and the organizations below, we are writing to respectfully request that you champion the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act (H.R.869/S.289) and request and support full funding for the initiatives it would create in any relevant proposal that advances.

The bipartisan RISE Act, led by Representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO), Fred Upton (R-MI), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH) in the House and Senators Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Gary Peters (D-MI) in the Senate, would provide \$25 billion to help restore our nation's research capacity to its pre-pandemic strength, prevent setbacks against the formidable challenges our nation faces, and further the goal of a robust, diverse, and inclusive STEM workforce.

The widespread, detrimental impact of COVID-19 on research and researchers, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, runs counter to the never more visible need for a strong and prolific research & development (R&D) ecosystem. According to a 2020 report from the Council on Government Relations, projected research output loss due to COVID-19 ranges between 20 to 40 percent, with a "potential impact approaching tens of billions of dollars across the entire U.S. research enterprise."

Beyond the immediate damaging financial losses at the local, state, and federal levels, the long-term repercussions of interrupted research mean that future scientific innovations and discoveries will be squandered or severely delayed. Whether the measure is societal progress, our nation's ability to preempt and respond to threats like COVID-19, potential lives saved, or U.S. economic competitiveness, failing to shore up our weakened research infrastructure contravenes the best interests of the American people.

Further, the STEM careers of women, minorities, and other underrepresented populations have been placed in particular jeopardy by disrupted training grants and research schedules. Without the contributions of these groups, the full potential of our nation's research enterprise will not be fully actualized.

The role that research plays in strengthening and sustaining economic growth aligns with your Administration's plans to mobilize American ingenuity and talent to respond to the challenges we face. The positive economic impacts of R&D are well worth the investment in it. Below are just two examples of how prioritizing R&D investment fortifies economic stability.

**Investing in R&D improves the lives of all Americans and enables them to contribute to our economy for longer periods of time.** Research-related gains include life-saving treatments and vaccines, more efficient and environmentally-friendly production techniques, and better ways to harness and use energy and advances in artificial intelligence and robotics. In public health alone, between 1970 and 2000, research-related gains in average life expectancy had an estimated economic value of \$95 trillion, roughly \$3.2 trillion per year. A healthier workforce better able to contribute to our economy is an overarching societal benefit that can be directly linked to R&D.

**We are losing our R&D advantage, when innovative capacity has never been more important.** China has been growing its spending on R&D by 17% a year over the past 20 years, a significantly larger growth rate than that of the United States. Chinese researchers publish more papers each year than U.S. researchers do, and China holds the most patent grants of any nation. In the U.S., the proportion of federal discretionary spending that goes to R&D has fallen dramatically in the past 20 years and has been largely stagnant since the mid-1970s. Some experts predict China will outpace the U.S. in total R&D spending within the next ten years. Prioritizing R&D investment is a clear necessity for securing our nation's global economic competitiveness and advancing economic opportunity and prosperity for all.

Faster scientific progress creates jobs, fuels our economy, and saves lives. Funding the RISE Act would preserve and protect our nation's research investments and repair the frayed career pipeline for the next generation of scientists.

While the community awaits enactment of research recovery funds, it is critical that federal research agencies act quickly to provide maximum administrative flexibility and supplements, as well as clear guidance on these flexibilities, to immediately begin to address the unique challenges posed by the pandemic.

We are concerned that the pandemic's negative impact may be disproportionately affecting women and under-represented minority groups. Ideally, core administrative flexibilities would be uniform across and within extramural research agencies, though we recognize certain research areas or agencies may require different accommodations.

This includes allowing agencies to provide flexibility for childcare expenses, technical support, extensions or tolling of preferential status for early career investigators (e.g., ESI program at NIH), and extensions for grants (both no cost and funded, when needed and available) and status designations as appropriate, even if these flexibilities are not typically available. Moreover, the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19 demand that federal agencies go beyond routine flexibilities in order to fully leverage their discretionary authority to creatively support already funded research that has been interrupted by the pandemic.

Thank you for considering our views. We are deeply grateful for your service, and would also like to express our appreciation to Vice President Harris and your hard working staff members for their pivotal roles in advancing the best interests of our nation under your considered leadership.

Sincerely,

Research!America  
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research  
ACCP  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
ALS Association  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Immunologists  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Brain Coalition  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)  
American Chemical Society  
American Council on Education  
American Educational Research Association  
American Heart Association (AHA)  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Gravitational and Space Research  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Virology  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene  
American Sociological Association

American Thoracic Society  
ASBMR  
Association for Clinical and Translational Science  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors  
Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)  
Axis Advocacy  
Barth Syndrome Foundation  
Beyond Celiac  
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences  
Biophysical Society  
Boston University  
Burroughs Wellcome Fund  
California National Primate Research Center at UC Davis  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Cedars-Sinai  
Children's Cancer Cause  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Research  
Coalition for the Life Sciences  
College of Graduate Health Sciences, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center  
Columbia University  
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Creighton University School of Medicine  
Crop Science Society of America  
DIA  
Duke Health  
Duke University  
Ecological Society of America  
Emory University  
Entomological Society of America  
EveryLife Foundation  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS)

Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Florida State University  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research  
Genetic Alliance  
Geoffrey Beene Foundation  
Geological Society of America  
George Mason University College of Health and Human Services  
Global Health Technologies Coalition  
Global Liver Institute  
Harvard University  
Henry Ford Health System  
Hydrocephalus Association  
Indiana University  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Institute for Systems Biology  
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation  
J. David Gladstone Institutes  
JDRF  
Johns Hopkins University and Medicine  
Johnson & Johnson  
Lasker Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
Michigan State University  
Moise Ngwa, PhD  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America  
Nathan P. Thomas, Sr.  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students  
National Foundation to End Child Abuse and Neglect  
National Health Council  
National MS Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
Natural Science Collections Alliance  
NBIA Disorders Association  
NDRI  
Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
North American Vascular Biology Organization

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
NYU Langone Health  
Oakland University  
One Mind/HBGI  
Oregon Health & Science University  
OSA - The Optical Society  
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation  
Remember the Girls  
Research Nebraska, Inc.  
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science  
Sepsis Alliance  
Shepherd University  
Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute  
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Soil Science Society of America  
Solve ME/CFS Initiative  
Stanford University  
Stephen Covell, PhD  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Biomedical Research Institute  
The GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
The Oceanography Society  
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center  
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies  
Tulane University  
Tulane University School of Medicine  
UCLA  
UC San Francisco  
United for Medical Research  
University of California Davis  
University of California Graduate & Professional Council  
University of California Riverside  
University of California San Diego  
University of California System  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Colorado Colorado Springs  
University of Colorado Denver  
University of Colorado Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine  
University of Colorado System

University of Florida  
University of Illinois College of Medicine  
University of Illinois System  
University of Maryland School of Medicine  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
University of Michigan  
University of New Mexico  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Southern California  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health  
Usher Syndrome Coalition  
USP  
UW Medicine  
Vanderbilt University  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Wayne State University  
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Yale University  
Yerkes National Primate Research Center

CC

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy