

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Whip
United States Senate
S-208, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Minority Whip
United States Senate
S-321, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer and Senators Thune and Durbin:

We, the undersigned organizations, appreciate the Congressional response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact. We write to encourage you to provide at least \$2 billion in bridge funding in future Congressional COVID-19 relief packages to assure the stalled research supported by non-profit organizations, voluntary health associations, science societies, and foundations, can resume once researchers return to their labs.

We are deeply concerned about the economic consequences that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on America's research pipeline. The non-profit and voluntary health organization research community is a critical part of America's drug research and development pipeline. It is the fourth largest contributor for U.S. medical and health research and development expenditures, and funds thousands of early and mid-career scientists and researchers each yearⁱ. Collectively this sector of the research community invests at least \$6-7 billion each year to advance biomedical research and disease knowledge, translate biomedical research into novel therapies, and support early and mid-level scientists to ensure a robust scientific workforceⁱⁱ.

The decreases in revenue that these organizations are experiencing as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic will significantly impact their ability to fund basic or clinical research and will hinder completion of ongoing research and clinical trials, effectively bringing innovation to a stand-still. Costs associated with bringing research back online are unbudgeted expenses and many organizations do not have the ability to cover these costs due to the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Researchers supported by these organizations often use this funding to build towards larger federal grants from the National Institutes of Health or other federal research agencies. We are concerned that a decrease in research funding from this community will force many researchers to abandon important research projects, including disease specific research, and will result in a gap of needed researchers for years to come.

In this time of extreme uncertainty, we believe Congress can provide vital support for the research occurring at America's non-profit, foundations, associations and voluntary health research community. We urge Congress to act swiftly to provide at least \$2 billion in emergency funding to support the research occurring through these organizations, who play such a critical role in advancing disease knowledge, expediting the development of novel therapies, and supporting America's broader research and scientific workforce.

Sincerely,

Accelerated Cure Project
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Foundation
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Association
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
(AAPM&R)
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodagnostic
Medicine
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Behcet's Disease Association. (ABDA)
American Brain Coalition
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American Diabetes Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Heart Association
American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR)
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
American Parkinson Disease Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental
Therapeutics
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Thoracic Society
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of University Professors of Neurology

Beyond Celiac
Cancer Support Community
Caregiver Action Network
Celiac Disease Foundation
Children's Cancer Cause
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Conquering CHD
Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
CureSHANK
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Advocacy Network
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Ear Community, Inc.
Endocrine Society
Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Partnership
Epilepsy Foundation
Fibrous Dysplasia Foundation
Fight Colorectal Cancer
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Foundation for Sickle Cell Disease Research
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Greater Tampa Bay Oral Health Coalition
Hydrocephalus Association
International Organization of MS Nurses
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation
International Pemphigus Pemphigoid Foundation
Interstitial Cystitis Association
JDRF
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
KidneyCAN
LUNGevery Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
Lupus Research Alliance

Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
Mental Health America
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
METAvivor
MLD Foundation
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Ataxia Foundation
National Cancer Registrars Association
National Eczema Association
National Health Council
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia
National Organization of Rare Disorders
National Pancreas Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
NephCure Kidney International
Oncology Nursing Society
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Parkinson's Foundation
Parkinson's Unity Walk
Patient Services, Inc.
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
Prevent Blindness
Project Sleep
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Research!America
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
RetireSafe
Scleroderma Foundation
Sjögren's Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
St. Baldrick's Foundation
The Brain Donor Project

The Brain Recovery Project: Childhood Epilepsy Surgery
Foundation
The Marfan Foundation
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Oral Cancer Foundation
The Parkinson Alliance
The TMJ Association
Triage Cancer
U. S. COPD Coalition
United Ostomy Associations of America
US Hereditary Angioedema Association

ⁱ Research America. U.S. Investments in Medical and Health Research and Development 2013 – 2018. https://www.researchamerica.org/sites/default/files/Publications/InvestmentReport2019_Fnl.pdf (Accessed April 27, 2020.)

ⁱⁱ Health Research Alliance. HRA Analyzer.