

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

The undersigned organizations and institutions, representing hundreds of thousands of individuals and entities working in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics, urge you to complete work on the fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations bills without delay. The disruption created by short and long-term continuing resolutions (CRs) has severe consequences for science and research. The public health and economic crises caused by COVID-19 further compound the negative effects of unpredictable funding; as such, in addition to finalizing the annual funding levels for science agencies and programs, we urge enactment of emergency research relief funding to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federal investments across more than two dozen defense and nondefense agencies provide the lifeblood for research, discovery, innovation and development in the United States, driving one of the most powerful engines for American prosperity and global leadership. Failing to complete work on the appropriations bills that fuel this engine in a timely manner impedes our ability to not only respond and recover from COVID-19, but also to address persistent and fundamental challenges such as chronic and infectious diseases, food and energy security, national security and natural disasters—all of which require advancements in science and technology fostered through federal investments.

As we continue to grapple with the pandemic, federal science and public health agencies need certainty—their activities are put at risk by disruptive, long-term CRs that stand in the way of new programming and long-term planning. Earlier this year, many researchers, students, post-docs and laboratory personnel across all scientific disciplines were forced to close facilities and suspend their work as a result of quarantine requirements. Disruptions of this magnitude have implications not only for the research workforce, but also on the process of scientific discovery. Recently released data from the Council on Governmental Relations show research output dropped between 20 – 40 percent in the first six months of the pandemic with a potential impact in the tens of billions of dollars across the research enterprise. Scientific research cannot be turned on and off like a faucet, and ramping back up after a closure will take time and can be a costly endeavor.

We call on you to work in a bipartisan manner and without delay to complete work on the FY 2021 spending bills and provide emergency research relief funding so that we can not only move beyond COVID-19, but also continue to lead the world in science and innovation and improve the health, security and

economic strength of our nation. Our organizations and our members stand ready to work with you toward this goal. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

AABB

Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

AcademyHealth

American Association for Clinical Chemistry

American Association for Dental Research

American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Geographers

American Association of Immunologists

American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases

American Association of Physical Anthropologists

American Association of Physicists in Medicine

American Association of Physics Teachers

American Astronomical Society

American Brain Coalition

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

American Chemical Society

American Crystallographic Association

American Dairy Science Association

American Gastroenterological Association

American Geophysical Union (AGU)

American Heart Association (AHA)

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Lung Association

American Mathematical Society

American Meteorological Society

American Physical Society

American Physiological Society

American Psychological Association

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

American Society for Gravitational and Space Research

American Society for Investigative Pathology

American Society for Microbiology

American Society for Nutrition

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics

American Society for Virology

American Society of Agronomy

American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Human Genetics  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene  
American Sociological Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
ASME  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO)  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of Science and Technology Centers  
AVS - The Society for Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing  
Behavior Genetics Association  
Binghamton University - State University of New York  
Biophysical Society  
Brain Aneurysm Foundation  
Case Western Reserve University  
Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)  
Computing Research Association  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Crop Science Society of America  
Duke University  
Ecological Society of America  
Endocrine Society  
Entomological Society of America  
FASS

Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
General Atomics  
Geological Society of America  
Global Health Technologies Coalition  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Harvard Medical School  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hydrocephalus Association  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Institute of Food Technologists  
International Bipolar Foundation  
International Code Council  
International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis  
IPPF  
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine  
KidneyCAN  
Lasker Foundation  
LUNGevity Foundation  
Materials Research Society  
Mathematical Association of America  
Medical Library Association  
Michigan State University  
Moffitt Cancer Center  
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals – Multistate Initiative  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Federation of Federal Employees  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Natural Science Collections Alliance  
New York University  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
North American Vascular Biology Organization  
Northern Illinois University  
OSA-The Optical Society  
Patrick Risha CTE Awareness Foundation  
PBM Foundation  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Prevent Blindness  
Research!America  
Seismological Society of America  
Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR)  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Research in Child Development  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

Society for the Study of Evolution  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of Breast Imaging  
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists  
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound  
Society of Toxicology  
Soil Science Society of America  
Solve CFS  
SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics  
Stony Brook University  
Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR) Foundation  
The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
The Brain Recovery Project: Childhood Epilepsy Surgery Foundation  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Science Coalition  
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
The Society for Pediatric Radiology  
The Society for Pediatric Radiology Research and Education Foundation  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
The University of North Carolina System  
UCLA  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United for Medical Research  
University at Albany, State University of New York  
University at Buffalo  
University of California San Diego  
University of Delaware  
University of Maine  
University of Maine System  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee  
Vanderbilt University  
Veterans for Common Sense  
Washington State University  
Wayne State University  
Weed Science Society of America  
West Virginia University  
Yale University