

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
 San Diego Chamber of Commerce  
 San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
 Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
 Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
 Colorado Business Roundtable  
 Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce  
 South Denver Metro Chamber  
 Boulder Chamber of Commerce  
 Fort Collins Areas Chamber  
 The Bridgeport Regional Business Council  
 The Business Council of Fairfield County  
 Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce  
 Athens Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Georgia Chamber  
 Metro Atlanta Chamber  
 Greater Des Moines Partnership  
 Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce  
 Indy Chamber  
 Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce  
 Lawrence Chamber of Commerce  
 Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce  
 Cambridge Chamber of Commerce  
 Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 New England Council  
 Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber  
 Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce  
 St. Louis Regional Chamber  
 Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Cary Chamber of Commerce  
 Charlotte Chamber of Commerce  
 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce  
 Fayetteville Regional Chamber  
 Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce  
 Morrisville Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce  
 MID Jersey Chamber of Commerce  
 Capital Region Chamber  
 Manhattan Chamber of Commerce  
 Columbus Chamber of Commerce  
 Dayton Development Coalition  
 Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
 Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Portland Business Alliance  
 Springfield Chamber of Commerce  
 Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County  
 The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia  
 CEO Council for Growth  
 Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Providence Chamber  
 Austin Chamber of Commerce  
 Texas Association of Business  
 Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
 Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Richmond Chamber  
 Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
 Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce



November 18, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
 Speaker of the House  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

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

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

The Honorable Harry Reid  
 Democratic Leader  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi, and Reid:

On behalf of Business for Federal Research Funding, a broad-based coalition of more than 65 chambers of commerce from across the country, we are writing to urge you to finalize the FY17 appropriations process and pass a spending bill or bills that include increased funding for critical research accounts.

The Business for Federal Research Funding coalition was formed to advocate for annual increases above inflation in research funding in the federal budget. We also aim to bring a heightened focus to the critical impact research has on our nation's economy and ability to compete globally. The innovations that flow from basic research are at the root of countless companies, products, and jobs. These innovations lead to scientific breakthroughs and new technologies from the internet to communications satellites and defenses against disease. The wide variety of industries represented by coalition members cannot continue to thrive without the investment of federal dollars in basic research. And the return on investment can be seen in every corner of our country.

Specifically, the coalition is primarily focused on increasing research funds for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and Homeland Security.

Funding for research accounts have seen increases in the past few fiscal years, but for agencies like NIH, funding hasn't kept pace with medical research inflation. According to the National Institutes of Health Office of Budget, since 2003 the U.S. spent \$111.7 billion less on NIH funding than it would have if it kept pace with medical research inflation. In order to make up for this underinvestment and prevent the further stagnation of research and development, it is crucial that Congress ensures reliable annual appropriations at a steady rate above inflation.

We thank the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for approving appropriations bills which include increases in funding for various research accounts, particularly NIH funding. While we understand that a continuing resolution may be necessary to keep government functioning, that process can have a damaging impact on key research accounts. It is our strong hope that, with the election finally behind us, you will return to work and build on the progress you've already made by finalizing the appropriations process for FY17 so these funds can be realized. The agencies and grantees ultimately receiving these funds rely on predictable funding streams to continue lifesaving and breakthrough research. So for the U.S. to remain a global leader in R&D, Congress needs to provide robust annual appropriations.

The time to act is now. Representing a strong cross-section of the nation's business community, we respectfully urge you to pass an FY17 appropriations bill or bills with increased funding for research accounts. Our local, regional, national and global economies rely on it.

Thank you for attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

### **Business for Federal Research Funding**

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader  
The Honorable Steve Scalise, House Majority Whip  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Democratic Whip  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, House Majority Conference Chair  
The Honorable James Clyburn, House Assistant Democratic Leader  
The Honorable Luke Messer, House Majority Policy Committee Chair  
The Honorable Xavier Becerra, House Democratic Caucus Chair  
The Honorable John Cornyn, Senate Majority Whip  
The Honorable Richard Durbin, Senate Democratic Whip  
The Honorable John Thune, Senate Majority Conference Chair  
The Honorable John Barrasso, Senate Majority Policy Committee Chair  
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Democratic Policy Committee Chair  
The Honorable Roy Blunt, Senate Majority Conference Vice Chair  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Senate Democratic Conference Secretary  
Members of the House Appropriations Committee  
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee