April 30, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the 76 undersigned organizations, we urge you to support the quick passage of the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act to reinvigorate the federal research enterprise, including that funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which has been limited by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bipartisan, bicameral RISE Act would provide $25 billion in emergency relief--$10 billion of which would support NIH-funded research--to continue federally funded research that has been stalled, delayed, or even stopped as a result of the pandemic. The long-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country’s biomedical research enterprise are becoming clear: funds are being diverted to support COVID-related research to the detriment of research on conditions within the missions of NIH’s 27 institutes and centers; the new COVID-related expenses incurred to run research are reducing the buying power of existing grants; and we are in danger of losing a generation of investigators who are particularly vulnerable to career disruptions.

Congress must take action now to ensure the COVID-19 pandemic does not undermine the future of the research enterprise. The United States was able to respond quickly to the pandemic, including supporting the development of effective vaccines, because of the sustained investment in NIH. Congress must continue its bipartisan commitment to ensure the country is prepared to future pandemics and continuing health threats, like diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, cardiovascular disease, substance use disorders, and maternal mortality. Without additional emergency funds, ongoing research in these and other priority areas will be set back creating additional public health crises.

Besides jeopardizing research progress, further delay in appropriating emergency funding will damage the future biomedical research workforce. NIH has taken important steps to improve the diversity of the research workforce; however, the pandemic has taken a disproportionate toll on early-stage researchers and those with caregiving responsibilities as shown by two recent surveys NIH conducted on COVID-19’s impact on the extramural research workforce. Without adequate support, these individuals will leave the workforce at a time their contributions are most needed. It will be critical to address the negative impacts on research productivity and researchers’ ability to apply for grants before the bottom completely falls out of the job market for this next generation of scientific research leaders. We are concerned that the

losses that we have seen to date are just the beginning, and the negative impact will certainly continue to grow. We urge you to act now to prevent this outcome.

As Congress continues to address the pandemic and support the country’s recovery, we respectfully request you support research now by passing the RISE Act.

Sincerely,

Endocrine Society
Academic Pediatric Association
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research
Advocacy & Awareness for Immune Disorders Association (AAIDA)
ALLERGY & ASTHMA NETWORK
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Immunologists
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Brain Coalition
American Diabetes Association
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Neurological Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physiological Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society for Investigative Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Urological Association
APS Foundation of America, Inc
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Beyond Celiac
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
Certification Board for Diabetes Care and Education
Chronic Care Policy Alliance
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Endometriosis Association
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Hope For Hypothalamic Hamartomas
International Biomedical Research Alliance
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiArthritis)
Interstitial Cystitis Association
JDRF
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation
National Center for Environmental Health Strategies
National Eczema Association
NephCure Kidney International
One Mind
Organic Acidemia Association
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Pediatric Policy Council
Research!America
Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Toxicology
Susan G. Komen
The Gerontological Society of America
The Michael J. Fox Foundation For Parkinson's Research
The Myositis Association
The Simon Foundation for Continence
The Sumaira Foundation for NMO
Tulane University
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
University of Colorado SOM and RMR VAMC
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Utah
University of Wisconsin- Madison
Vasculitis Foundation
wAIHA Warriors
Wake Forest School of Medicine