

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer,

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every major section of the economy of the United States, including our nation's biomedical research. The future of our nation's research has been severely impacted by coronavirus related precautions and will require years of work to restore the lost productivity if swift action is not taken. According to witness testimony from the Director of the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Francis Collins, the coronavirus pandemic has caused over \$10 billion in lost research¹, not to mention the additional unforeseen medical research needs posed by this virus.

As such, we request that \$15.5 billion for NIH be included in a fourth COVID relief package to avoid significant harm to our research pipeline in the United States. Of this funding, we request that \$10 billion be allocated to help make up for unforeseen disruptions and costs to important, ongoing medical research nationwide, and that \$5.5 billion be allocated for NIH-supported coronavirus-related research into cures, treatments, and vaccines.

A majority of our researchers have been unable to continue their work while away from their labs and the impact will be felt for years to come. These disruptions will add a significant delay in our understanding of dangerous diseases as well as cutting-edge treatments to improve quality of life for those suffering from them. Beyond that, this major slowdown places an economic engine of over \$81 billion and nearly 476,000 jobs across the U.S. at great risk.²

Whether it's treating and eradicating the COVID-19 pandemic or continuing groundbreaking research toward deadly diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes, and more, the NIH is at the forefront of improving and saving lives. This important work takes place in our universities in every state and produces results that drive our nation's health care forward.

¹ <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/pharma-and-life-sciences/virus-will-cost-nih-10-billion-in-lost-research-director-warns/>

² <https://www.unitedformedicalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/An-Unprecedented-Impact-PART-2-FINAL-7.1.20.pdf>

While we have worked together to stabilize our economy and keep our citizens safe, we must now look to the future and ensure that the engine that drives our healthcare forward does not come to a halt, and we must dedicate more funding to help fight this ongoing pandemic.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry Moran
United States Senator

/s/ Dick Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Bill Cassidy
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Doug Jones
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator