



September 25, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232 United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We represent the leading national voices for the research universities, medical schools, and teaching hospitals at the forefront of our nation's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you for your continuing efforts to mitigate the pandemic's harmful health, economic, and societal consequences. As you work with House committee leaders to develop another pandemic relief package that supports patients and the nation, we respectfully request that it provide emergency funding for the nation's research agencies, including research relief funding consistent with H.R. 7308, the Research Investment to Spark the Economy Act or the RISE Act. The bipartisan RISE Act, with strong support in both chambers and from a diverse array of stakeholders, authorizes approximately \$26 billion in relief funding for federal research agencies to support the research workforce, mitigate the disruptions to research and core research facilities, and ramp up research that has been halted or slowed.

As we wrote in [April](#) and [August](#), COVID-19 has caused enormous disruptions to federally supported research and inflicted serious and detrimental impacts on our nation's research enterprise. The relief that we are requesting would make significant strides in avoiding long-term and devastating impacts to federal research and its workforce which underpins the ability of our nation's patients, doctors, innovation and energy industries, and farmers, ranchers, and fishers to have access to globally-competitive, American innovations.

In June, the bipartisan RISE Act ([H.R. 7308/ S. 4286](#)) was introduced to authorize funding to address these harmful impacts, and over 130 Members have cosponsored the bill to date. The Research and Technology Committee Subcommittee of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee [held a hearing](#) earlier this month that illuminated the harmful impacts of the pandemic on university-based research. Furthermore, on September 16th, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee affirmed support for \$26 billion in research relief across all federal science agencies by approving the RISE Act. The RISE Act has been [endorsed](#) by our organizations and more than 300 universities, science, engineering, patient, and business organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Business for Federal Research Funding Coalition, and the Task Force on American Innovation.

While the House-passed HEROES Act included some relief to alleviate the pandemic impacts on research funded by the National Institutes of Health, additional relief is needed to maintain and advance U.S. competitiveness through innovations supported by not only NIH, but also other federal research agencies. We urge that emergency research relief funding be appropriated as recommended in the RISE Act:

- Department of Defense (DOD) – \$3 billion
- Department of Energy (DOE) – \$5 billion
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) – \$10 billion
- National Science Foundation (NSF) – \$3 billion
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – \$2 billion
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – \$380 million
- Institute for Education Sciences – \$200 million
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – \$350 million
- National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) – \$300 million
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – \$200 million

We cannot afford to lose future generations of the nation’s scientific research workforce at this critical juncture. We are in a global race for talent, and this agency funding will directly support graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and early career faculty in completing their studies and ensure career stability for America’s future researchers. Without relief funds, the consequences for our nation’s university research and scientific enterprise – and by extension, the country – will be dire.

Agencies will be forced to choose between abandoning new research opportunities of national importance or discontinuing existing research projects that are not yet completed. This would undermine the public’s investment in research and slow discovery and innovation, while at the same time jeopardizing a generation of scientists and engineers critical to America’s innovation capacity and economic competitiveness for years to come.

We are grateful for the emergency funding that Congress has provided to date to support new COVID-19-related research and other needs, and we continue to support additional investments to expand this work as our response to the pandemic continues.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership during this extraordinary time of crisis.

Sincerely,



Peter McPherson  
 President  
 Association of Public and Land-grant Universities



David J. Skorton, MD  
 President and CEO  
 Association of American Medical Colleges



Ted Mitchell  
 President  
 American Council on Education



Matt Owens  
 Interim President  
 Association of American Universities

Cc: Members of the House Committee on Appropriations  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture  
Members of the House Committee on Armed Services  
Members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources

The Association of American Universities (AAU) is an association of 63 U.S. and two Canadian leading research universities that transform lives through education, research, and innovation. AAU member universities collectively help shape policy for higher education, science, and innovation; promote best practices in undergraduate and graduate education and strengthen the contributions of leading research universities to American society. The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is a research, policy, and advocacy organization with a membership of over 200 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, that is dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, groundbreaking medical research, and community collaborations. Its members comprise all 155 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems; and more than 80 academic societies. The American Council on Education (ACE) is a membership organization that mobilizes the higher education community to shape effective public policy and foster innovative, high-quality practice. As the major coordinating body for the nation's colleges and universities, our strength lies in our diverse membership of more than 1,700 colleges and universities, related associations, and other organizations.