



May 25, 2023

President Joe Biden  
The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

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Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker McCarthy,  
Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of Research!America, we appreciate the challenges entailed in reaching an agreement to raise the debt limit and your efforts to reach consensus. We are deeply concerned, however, that funding directly tied to the health, prosperity, and security of the American people hangs in the balance. In that context, we strongly urge you to refrain from any action that compromises immediate deployment of Project NextGen as an urgent strategic priority.

Another deadly pandemic could emerge at any time. As extremely transmissible respiratory pathogens, coronaviruses and influenza viruses hold the greatest potential to cause a future pandemic. The Trump and Biden Administrations and members of Congress from both sides of the aisle have been resolute in fueling critical progress in pandemic flu preparedness. Charged with equipping our nation with medical countermeasures before the next coronavirus emerges, Project NextGen merits the same steadfast bipartisan support.

Our nation alone has lost over [1.1 million lives](#) to the COVID-19 coronavirus. Globally, the death toll is nearly [7 million](#). The U.S.

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economic toll of the pandemic is forecasted to reach [\\$14 trillion](#) by the end of this year.

Further, an estimated [16 million Americans](#) who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection have experienced “[Long COVID](#),” which can include symptoms as serious as heart or kidney failure. Millions with Long COVID [report](#) a significant impact on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities, including their jobs.

Our nation cannot decide whether to go through the next pandemic, but we can decide whether to prepare for it. We urge you to ensure Project NextGen is funded and works with urgency to meet its strategic mission.

Thank you for considering our views. We appreciate your diligence, and please thank your respective staff members for their hard work in service to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mary Woolley  
President & CEO of Research!America