

October 16, 2015

The Honorable Rick Allen
United States House of Representatives
513 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1012

Dear Congressman Allen,

We write to share our joint support for Georgia's research enterprise. We all know, and appreciate, how federal and state-funded research dollars benefit patients and their families. They also benefit Georgia's ability to attract a highly-skilled workforce, sustain small companies that provide the ancillary services to support research, and spur economic growth several times over the initial investment.

In 2013, the federal government directed \$1.8 billion to Georgia's university researchers. The funding was competitively awarded to researchers in Georgia by federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Agriculture.

The NIH has estimated that every \$1 in research funding has a 2.21 multiplier effect on local economic growth. Using this multiplier, we project a state economic impact of \$4 billion in 2013.

Yet for all these impressive numbers, federal research funding has declined more than 21 percent since FY2003. With sequestration set to take effect, we are concerned about this alarming trend.

The failure of Congress to replace the sequester with a sustainable spending and deficit reduction plan means tremendous pressures on the research enterprise that will be felt long into the future as young, would-be scientists and researchers seek career opportunities elsewhere. In addition, it legitimately threatens cutting-edge research, high-quality patient care, fledging start-ups, and future economic growth. We ask for, and will support, your efforts to put Georgia, and our nation, on a path toward investment in our future.

One way to increase our research investment, *without a single new dime of federal funding*, is to support the reallocation of compliance costs. According to the Federal Demonstration Partnership, researchers spend 42 percent of research time on administration. If we could eliminate just a few of these burdensome and redundant regulatory requirements, our researchers could spend more time in the lab focusing on their research.

On September 22, the National Academy of Sciences released the first of a two-part

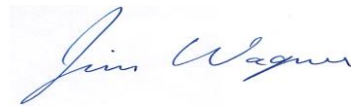
report on the regulation of federally-funded academic research. It calls on the federal government to streamline and harmonize its regulation of federally-funded academic research. Among its recommendations, the report calls on Congress to address a lack of uniformity in regulations, policies, forms, and requirements. We encourage you to support the findings in this report.

Support for the federal research enterprise allows the young scientists of today to become the Eminent Scholars of tomorrow. In turn, that translates into more start-up companies and higher-paying scientific jobs, contributing to Georgia's economy. Please support funding for research in Georgia. It is good for our economy, our workforce, and our patients.

Sincerely,



Jere W. Morehead, President
University of Georgia



Dr. James W. Wagner, President
Emory University



Dr. Mark Becker, President
Georgia State University



Dr. Bud Peterson, President
Georgia Institute of Technology



Dr. Brooks Keel, President
Augusta University



Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice
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Michael Cassidy, President & CEO
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Hala Moddelmog, President & CEO
Metro Atlanta Chamber



Dan Kaufman, President
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Ronald A. Johnson, President
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William D. Underwood, President & CEO
Mercer University