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Statement by Research!America president and CEO Mary Woolley on House Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee Markup of FY17 Bill

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Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) are long-standing champions of faster medical progress, and the \$1.25 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) demonstrates their continued commitment to this American imperative. From Alzheimer's disease to lupus to muscular dystrophy, our nation must fight harder to find cures and investing in NIH is a crucial piece of the puzzle. We are heartened that for the first time in four years funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) was not eliminated, but budget cuts are ill-advised at a time when health care delivery research is critical to improving health care and patient safety. These cuts are moving our nation in the wrong direction. Research supported by AHRQ is addressing waste and inefficiencies in the health care system, medical errors and rising health care costs. Increased funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to combat Zika virus and find solutions to prescription drug abuse is a positive development. The sooner resources are deployed to address these health threats, the better. But we are concerned that the spending bill continues to prohibit gun prevention research supported by the CDC.

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