

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Diana DeGette
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeGette and Representative Upton:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we commend your leadership in introducing the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act, which will provide much-needed supplemental funding for federally-funded research. Our organizations and collective memberships, representing hundreds of thousands of health care providers, remain committed to assisting Congress in the nation's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and support the continuous funding of scientific and medical research that will ensure improved patient outcomes.

We are deeply concerned about the serious consequences of the ongoing disruptions to the broader research enterprise. We note positively that the RISE Act will address this by authorizing approximately \$25 billion in much-needed supplemental funding for federal research agencies to mitigate the negative scientific and economic effects of the COVID-19-related laboratory closures and disruptions of research already in progress.

As is the case in the overall economy, researchers, students, post-docs, and lab personnel have had their work interrupted due to COVID-19. This has implications not only for the research workforce – where hiring has been disrupted and employees furloughed – but also on the process of scientific discovery and, ultimately, improved human health. The longer the slowdown continues, the more serious the consequences will be, especially for graduate students, postdocs, principal investigators, and laboratory and technical staff. While our nation's research infrastructure has demonstrated that it can absorb shocks, this shock is unprecedented in duration and its impact continues to expand. As such, Congress' enactment of the RISE Act will foster the recovery of pre-pandemic research and support the next generation of scientists.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you, your House colleagues, and Congressional leadership to advance H.R. 869. Again, your leadership in introducing legislation to support federally-funded research is especially noteworthy. If you have any questions, please contact Christina Arenas at carenas@snmmi.org.

Sincerely,

Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance
Center for Diagnostic Imaging
Association for Quality Imaging