

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger and Ranking Member Cole:

As Congress exercises its oversight authority over the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to lead with science. Scientists, who have the appropriate subject-matter expertise, provide the best opportunity to answer key questions regarding the origin and transmission of the pandemic. Congress should follow an evidence-based process to ensure answers are grounded in sound science, are as complete as possible, and based in fact.

We caution against adopting policy changes absent scientific evidence, because doing so could further undermine the public's confidence in science. For future scientific progress, the implications of such proposals extend far beyond the immediate challenge of the pandemic.

We urge you to reject attempts to impose restrictions on federally funded research or the operations of federal science agencies based on premature conclusions about how the pandemic emerged. Such efforts could have serious, negative unintended consequences for potentially lifesaving research. They would harm the very ecosystem that developed the novel tests, vaccines, and medical countermeasures that have brought us through the pandemic. Continued support for research is essential for tackling a number of society's most vexing challenges, including combatting emerging infectious diseases and preventing the next pandemic.

On behalf of the scientists and clinicians our organizations and institutions represent, we urge you to allow the scientific process to play out as we seek to understand how the pandemic

began and how we can protect ourselves from future threats to our nation's health and economy.

Sincerely,

American Association for Anatomy  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Dairy Science Association  
American Geophysical Union (AGU)  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
American Society for Investigative Pathology  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Virology  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Biophysical Society  
Coalition for the Life Sciences  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
Endocrine Society  
Entomological Society of America  
FASS  
HIV Medicine Association  
Institute of Food Technologists  
International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH)  
KidneyCAN  
National Association for Biomedical Research  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
Research!America  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging  
Society of Toxicology  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
The Society for Pediatric Radiology  
Veterans for Common Sense  
Wayne State University  
Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Emory University