



Georgia Congressional Delegation,

As Congress works toward additional support for the COVID-19 response and recovery, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce asks your support for medical research funding—both for the ongoing work related to COVID and for the research that has been interrupted as a result of the pandemic. Our organization is supportive of the RISE Act legislation, H.R. 7308 and its companion bill S. 4286, because it provides necessary assistance for many industries and the research they pivoted to in response to the pandemic.

We ask that \$15.5 billion be allocated for the National Institutes of Health to support overall research. We recommend that \$10 billion be allocated for disruptions in the medical research field while the remaining 5.5 billion to be directed to vaccines, treatments and cures related to the coronavirus. The Chamber believes that this is important to our state in particular because Georgia benefits from the many millions of dollars directed by the NIH. We rank 5th for overall NIH funding received, and 6th in NIH funding directed at COVID this year.

Every federal research grant awarded to a Georgia researcher supports economic growth to our region and is a multiplier for jobs in research and the supply chain that it supports. Relief funding is needed to enable graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and principal investigators to complete work that has been disrupted due to COVID-19. With the increased need for research there has been an increased need for construction costs for research work to continue during a pandemic.

Emory University, for instance, had their investigators launch 177 studies, including more than 30 clinical trials, and published more than 350 papers on COVID-19 within a span of months. When the fiscal year closed at the end of August, Emory had earned a record \$831 million in research funding. More than 10 percent of the total (\$88.3 million) was for COVID-19 research, a testament to the ability of researchers to shift course rapidly to tackle the world's biggest public health crisis in more than a hundred years. Therefore, it is important that we continue to invest in the critical research that our universities are taking part in. The Georgia Chamber appreciates your support of these appropriations to keep our country moving forward with groundbreaking research.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Clark', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Clark
President & CEO
Georgia Chamber of Commerce