



Boston University

Brandeis University

Brown University

California Institute of Technology

Carnegie Mellon University

Case Western Reserve University

Columbia University

Cornell University

Dartmouth College

Duke University

Emory University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Harvard University

Indiana University

Iowa State University

The Johns Hopkins University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

McGill University

Michigan State University

New York University

Northwestern University

The Ohio State University

The Pennsylvania State University

Princeton University

Purdue University

Rice University

Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Stanford University

Stony Brook University –

State University of New York

Texas A&M University

Tulane University

University at Buffalo –

State University of New York

The University of Arizona

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of California, Santa Cruz

The University of Chicago

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Florida

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

The University of Iowa

The University of Kansas

University of Maryland, College Park

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

University of Missouri, Columbia

The University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill

University of Oregon

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Rochester

University of Southern California

The University of Texas at Austin

University of Toronto

The University of Utah

University of Virginia

University of Washington

The University of Wisconsin - Madison

Vanderbilt University

Washington University in St. Louis

Yale University

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

Dear President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, and Leaders Schumer, McConnell, and McCarthy:

On behalf of America’s leading research universities, we urge you to work together to reach agreement on comprehensive pandemic legislation that includes relief necessary to combat the COVID-19 virus and mitigate its harmful impacts on suffering Americans and the nation’s economy. Our students, faculty, staff, and local communities are looking to Congress for leadership and support.

Our universities were among the first institutions to tackle this virus directly in our labs and hospitals, we are also among the first to curtail operations due to the pandemic, and we continue to face challenges as we deliver online instruction and help ensure the health and safety of our communities. The pandemic has caused substantial strain on our institutions, hospitals, and laboratories as we have worked to provide our nation and communities with the best scientific advice and medical care. The pandemic has also caused enormous disruptions to federally supported research conducted by our institutions to the detriment of our nation’s research enterprise. Our nation’s ability to fight this pandemic, and those of the future, is directly tied to the ability of our research universities, faculty, staff, and students to stay in the fight.

Research universities and hospitals contribute significantly to America’s health, economy, and national security. We are critical drivers of local economies. Many of our members are among the largest, if not the largest, employers in their cities and states, and the harmful economic consequences of the pandemic to these institutions is felt far beyond our campuses. Americans from all walks of life are dependent on us for their wellbeing, from doctors and nurses to facility and food service professionals. Tens of thousands of small businesses are also dependent on our institutions for their economic survival. While the end of the pandemic is now in sight, there is still much work to be done, and federal support for research universities, their students, employees, and their communities is vital to our nation’s success.

We call on you to work in a bipartisan manner to deliver a comprehensive pandemic relief package. Research universities and the federal government have a long-standing and

successful partnership that is in critical need of support as we confront the virus and stand on the front line of fighting the pandemic. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara R. Snyder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Barbara R. Snyder
President

cc: Members of the 117th Congress