

# The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of IMMUNOLOGISTS



*President*  
Gary A. Koretzky, M.D., Ph.D.

April 14, 2022

*Vice President*  
Mark M. Davis, Ph.D.

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
Washington, DC 20515

*Past President*  
Jenny P.-Y. Ting, Ph.D.

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
Washington, DC 20510

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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

*Chief Executive Officer*  
M. Michele Hogan, Ph.D.

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby:

I am writing on behalf of The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), the nation's largest professional association of research scientists and clinicians who are dedicated to studying the immune system, to urge you to expeditiously approve legislation that provides at least \$15.6 billion in supplemental funding to address some of the most pressing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many AAI members are deeply immersed in SARS-CoV-2 research and have been integral to the success against COVID-19 that the nation has experienced to date. The remarkable discoveries made by the scientific community during the pandemic, including mRNA vaccine technology, would not have been possible without Congress's long-term, robust federal investment in basic biomedical research. But it was Congress's generous short-term infusion of funds over the last two years that has enabled the rapid development of urgently needed tools, including vaccines that have proven extraordinarily successful at preventing COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths.

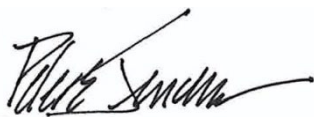
Despite these exceptional scientific and medical advances, and the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a threat in the U.S. and worldwide, we are in danger of losing ground in this important battle. Dr. Anthony Fauci, Chief Medical Advisor to the President, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and a longtime AAI member, recently warned that the U.S. will run out of COVID-19 tests, monoclonal antibodies, antiviral drugs, and funds to continue crucial research within the next few months. AAI therefore urges Congress and the White House to work together to provide additional supplemental funding in short order.

AAI is grateful for the recent bipartisan Senate efforts that resulted in legislation to provide an additional \$10 billion in supplemental funding to address the domestic priorities outlined by Dr. Fauci. We believe, however, that at least \$15.6 billion in supplemental funding is needed to address not only U.S. domestic needs, but also serious global health challenges, including increasing vaccination rates around the world, that threaten both global health and our nation's own health and security. This \$15.6 billion was included in the COVID-19 supplemental funding bill that was originally attached to the fiscal year (FY) 2022 omnibus appropriations bill.

While our nation has made dramatic strides toward combatting this deadly and devastating disease, the pandemic is not over and controlling it must remain a bipartisan priority. We urge Congress to provide the funding necessary to ensure that our country's scientists, physicians, and other health care leaders have the resources they need to continue moving us forward.

Please feel free to contact Lauren Gross, AAI Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs ([lgross@aai.org](mailto:lgross@aai.org)), or me ([peter.jensen@path.utah.edu](mailto:peter.jensen@path.utah.edu)) if you have any questions or if AAI can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter E. Jensen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter E. Jensen, M.D.  
Chair, Committee on Public Affairs  
The American Association of Immunologists