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October 21, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United State Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

We are writing on behalf of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM). SGIM is a member-based internal medical association of more than 3,300 of the world's leading academic general internists, who are dedicated to improving the access to care for all populations, eliminating health care disparities, and enhancing medical education.

Thank you for your extraordinary efforts to avoid another continuing resolution (CR) by completing the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process before the current CR expires on November 21, 2019. We appreciate that securing final appropriations legislation is a daunting task, but the consequences of failing in this task are untenable for the American people.

Passage of CRs are not neutral events. The often untold negative impact of CRs on medical and health services research, training and direct clinical care is of great concern to researchers, clinicians and public health professionals. We see every day the tragic results of illness, injuries, and death on families and on our society. Delays in addressing these issues penalize the American people who depend on our members to give them the best possible care.

For SGIM members, the National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Veterans Health Administration are key drivers of the progress that restores health and saves lives. CRs hamstring these agencies, stalling momentum and breeding uncertainty. And that results in a loss of hope for our patients and your constituents.

By defaulting to previous year funding levels and forcing federal agencies to stand down from responding responsibly and strategically to dynamic circumstances, CRs squander the potential for desperately needed medical advances, inhibit prompt and effective responses to public



health threats, delay training, and lock in any spending that may no longer be relevant. This is money we can ill afford to waste.

SGIM members are prepared to support your efforts as you work to finish the FY20 appropriations process in a manner that enables our nation to fight harder against deadly and debilitating diseases that – directly and indirectly – pose a threat to us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen DeSalvo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" being more prominent than the last name "DeSalvo".

Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric B Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" being more prominent than the last name "Bass".

Eric Bass, MD, MPH, FACP
Chief Executive Officer