

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Diana DeGette
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 7308, the *Research Investment to Secure the Economy (RISE) Act*

Dear Representatives DeGette and Upton:

Thank you for your continued leadership in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and for your recognition of the impact the pandemic is having on our nation's research infrastructure and investigators.

The Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) represents more than 2,000 members of the multidisciplinary heart failure team, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, researchers, and patients, dedicated to significantly reducing the burden of heart failure and improving and expanding heart failure care through collaboration, education, innovation, research, and advocacy. I write on behalf of HFSA to express our strong support for the *Research Investment to Secure the Economy (RISE) Act* (H.R. 7308) and the much-needed emergency relief funding it would provide for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal science agencies.

HFSA has heard from our members that existing research has been slowed down or stopped due to COVID-19, as well as modified clinical trial operations. In response to an ongoing survey, the members of the [HFSA Research Network](#) reported that their clinical research site has experienced changes in staffing including furloughs, reallocating staff to COVID studies, requiring personal time off, and remote working. Many sites are not open to new enrollment for trials. Recognizing the disruptions to clinical trials, the [Heart Failure Collaboratory](#) published a [statement](#) last month in *JACC: Heart Failure* specifically addressing heart failure clinical trials and outlining a number of guiding principles and possible trial conduct solutions for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$10 billion in funding for NIH that your bill would authorize will be critical to recover from this unprecedented shut down and ensure we embrace existing scientific opportunity and future innovation in heart failure and other areas. HFSA appreciates that this supplemental funding would allow the duration of existing grants to be extended, enable researchers to complete work disrupted by COVID-19, extend the training of young investigators, and support the changes needed to safely resume on-site research activities.

Again, thank you for your continued leadership. If we can provide additional information or answer any questions, please contact Sue Ramthun at sramthun@hfsa.org.

Sincerely,



Biykem Bozkurt, MD, PhD, HFSA
President
The Heart Failure Society of America

