



January 20, 2022

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on
Oversight and Investigations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McMorris Rodgers, Representative Guthrie and Representative Griffith:

The American Society for Microbiology appreciates the Energy and Commerce Committee's long-standing bipartisan support for biomedical research. We also respect Congress' important oversight role in ensuring that federal agencies are acting in the best of interest of science and the nation.

We believe that for future scientific progress, Congressional oversight is essential. So too is ensuring that such oversight is rooted in science and doesn't unintentionally interfere with scientific progress. Such an unfortunate result would have implications that extend far beyond the immediate challenge of the current pandemic.

The investigations you are contemplating, among other things, focus on individual research grants, grantees and institutions which could have a deleterious effect on peer-reviewed research at large. Instead, we encourage you to focus on understanding, strengthening and supporting the processes that already exist. The NIH, CDC and the FDA have processes aimed at evaluating the merits of proposed research projects and the safety and efficacy of medical countermeasures. They are also designed to ensure that policies are implemented with the

highest regard for national security. Oversight at this level will both safeguard the effectiveness of the scientific endeavor and, at the same time, ensure public confidence.

As one of the world's oldest life science societies whose mission is to advance the microbial sciences, ASM thanks you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefano Bertuzzi'.

Stefano Bertuzzi, PhD, MPH
Chief Executive Officer