



Laboratory Products Association

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## **LPA Urges Congress to Protect NIH Funding**

Fairfax, VA – The Laboratory Products Association (LPA) has sent letters to leaders in Congress urging them to reach a debt deal that protects the lifesaving research that is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The NIH represents an irreplaceable driver for biomedical advances, but it is also an engine for job creation and economic growth. For almost a decade the NIH's funding has stagnated, remaining essentially flat in recent years, greatly diminishing its buying power. Researchers across the country have seen their grant request funding rate fall well below 20 percent. This means that more than 80 percent of the best and most promising research projects going unfunded at time when the potential for new cures and advances is the highest it's ever been.

According to a recent analysis by United for Medical Research, the entire NIH biomedical ecosystem employs more than 432,000 people. LPA President, Clark Mulligan stated, "LPA members – small and large companies that provide the everyday workings of a lab, including refrigeration, centrifuges and fume hoods as well as microscope slides, beakers and test tubes – are a significant part of that ecosystem." Yet sequestration would result in more than 34,000 fewer jobs at universities, hospitals, and companies.

The LPA certainly understands the need to pay down our nation's debt, but doing so at the expense of lifesaving biomedical research – which ultimately save healthcare costs and drives up quality of life – would be counterproductive for the nation's economy and all our futures.

Mulligan added that the association is urging Congress to reach a debt deal that protects biomedical research, especially the National Institutes of Health and that doing otherwise will leave our country in a far worse place long-term.

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*The Laboratory Products Association (LPA) founded in 1918 as the Scientific Apparatus Makers Association. Its member companies are manufacturers and distributors of lab products and services such as glass and plasticware, chemicals, equipment and supplies used in scientific research and applied science and life science worldwide.*