



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY NETWORK

Contacting your elected representatives is easier than you might think. You can call and talk to a staffer or fill out a contact form using their website. You can [find your Representative's contact info here](#). You can [find your Senators' contact info here](#).

Here's an example to get you started:

Subject: Stop sequestration and support U.S. innovation

Dear <Insert Name here>:

I am writing as a resident of your district to request that you and your colleagues work to take immediate action to completely avoid the sequester scheduled to take place on January 2, 2013.

As you know, sequestration, as outlined in the Budget Control Act of 2012, will require cuts in discretionary spending to achieve \$1.2 trillion in savings from 2013-2021. This will lead to an 8.7% cut (or \$12.5 billion) to federally funded research and development (R&D) *in 2013 alone*. These cuts will immediately impact the capability of federal research funding agencies -- from the Department of Defense to the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy, and NASA -- to maintain investment in basic research.

Since federal R&D plays a key role in driving U.S. innovation, productivity, and overall economic growth, the impacts of sequestration are already evident and will be severe. In fact, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) projects that a decline in R&D investment of this magnitude will reduce GDP by at least \$203 billion in the short term and up to \$860 billion over the complete timeline of the sequester. Just the short-term loss is the economic equivalent to eliminating all sales of new motor vehicles for a half year. In addition, this unprecedented cut in federal research investment will have a huge impact on the workforce with ITIF estimating cumulative job losses and forgone job creation of approximately 450,000 from 2013-2016.

I urge you to work with your colleagues to reach an agreement on measures enabling you to prevent the sequestration from occurring, while providing for predictable and sustained support for federally supported scientific research. Specifically, I request immediate action on a balanced, bipartisan approach to seed the future economic and innovation enterprise for future generations of Americans.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State ZIP]

Here's a Potential Letter to the Editor of your Local Newspaper:

Dear Editor:

Today I am writing to urge the registered voters in our community to take a stand and contact their congressperson to request immediate action to completely avoid the sequester scheduled to take place on January 2, 2013. Referred to as the "fiscal cliff," sequestration will have devastating effects on our economy.

According to the Budget Control Act of 2012, sequestration will require cuts in discretionary spending to achieve \$1.2 trillion in savings from 2013-2021. This will lead to an 8.7% cut (or \$12.5 billion) to federally funded research and development (R&D) *in 2013 alone*. These cuts will immediately impact the capability of federal research funding agencies -- from the Department of Defense to the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy, and NASA -- to maintain investment in research.

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I ask all citizens in our community to take action and ensure that our legislators understand the enormous importance of bipartisan action on this issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, State ZIP]