



# FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

## FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCIENCE AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

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American Institute of Physics

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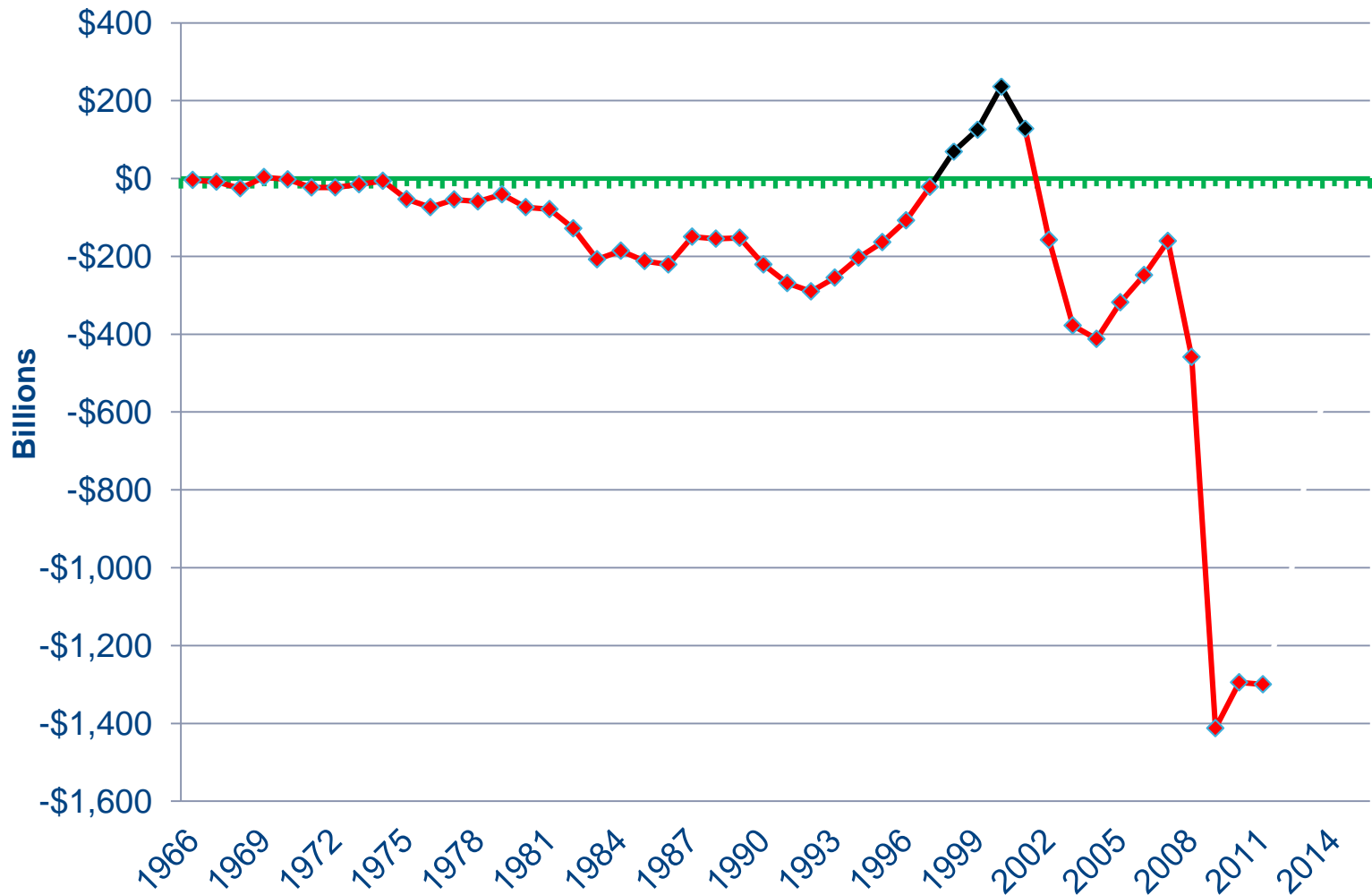
# Four Questions

- What is the broader budgetary context?
- Does it matter?
- What can we do about it?
- How do we make the most of our opportunities?

# Context Matters

- There are often obstacles to growth
- These vary over time
- They are not impervious to change
- “Fortune favors the prepared mind”  
Louis Pasteur, 1854

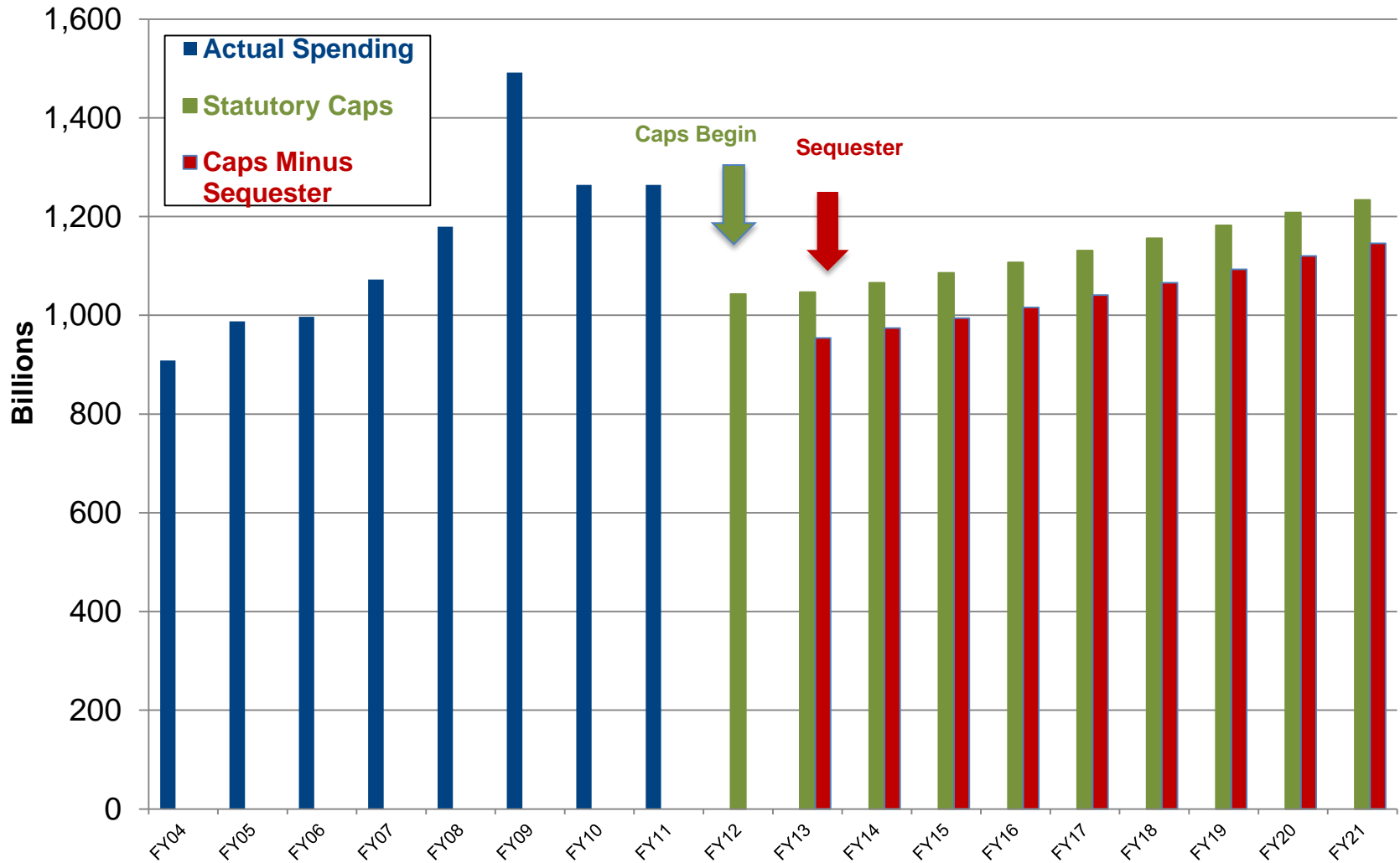
# Federal Budget Deficits and Surpluses, 1966-2011



Source: The Budget of the U.S. Government

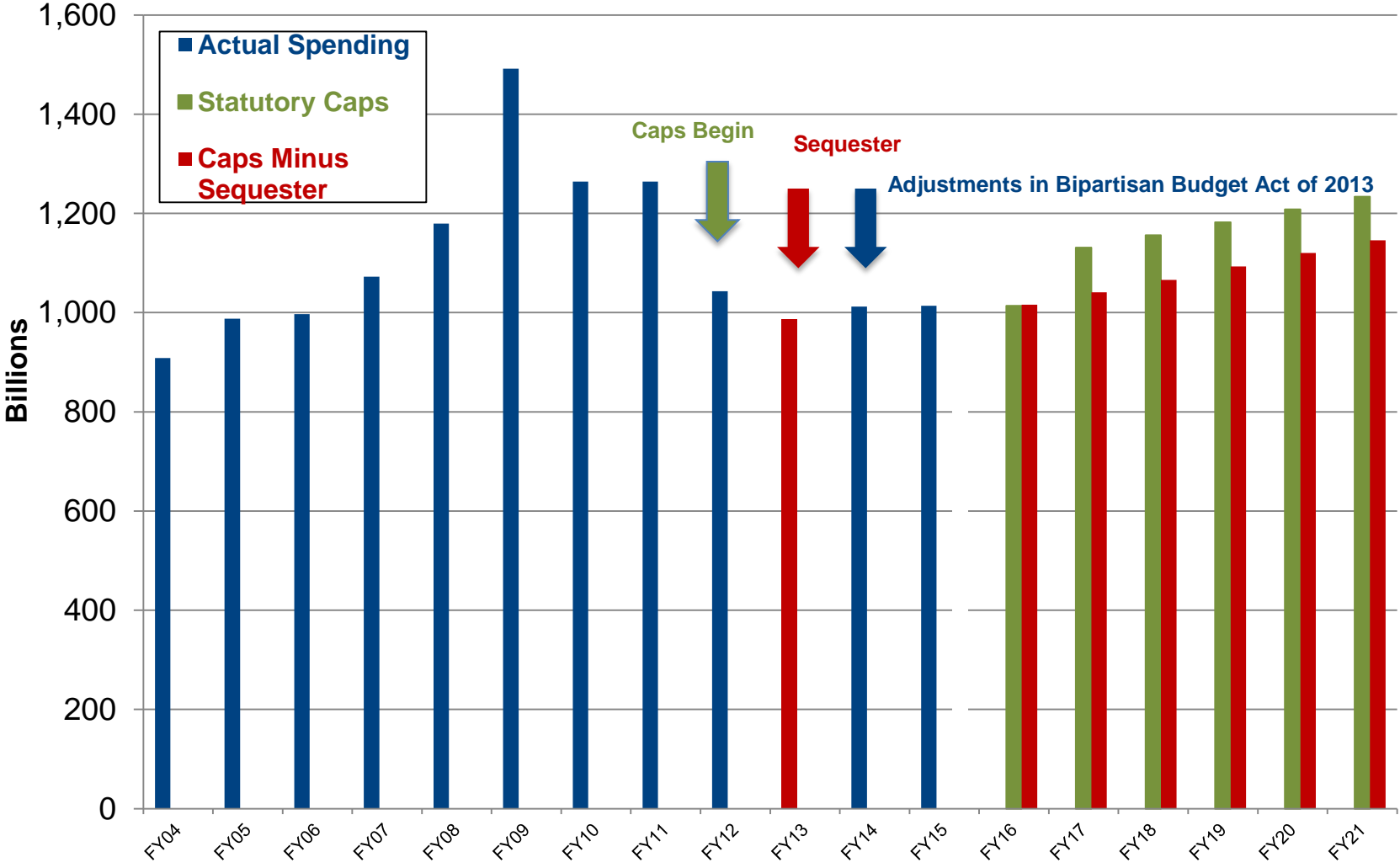
<http://m.gpo.gov/budget/>

# Federal Discretionary Spending Under BCA of 2011



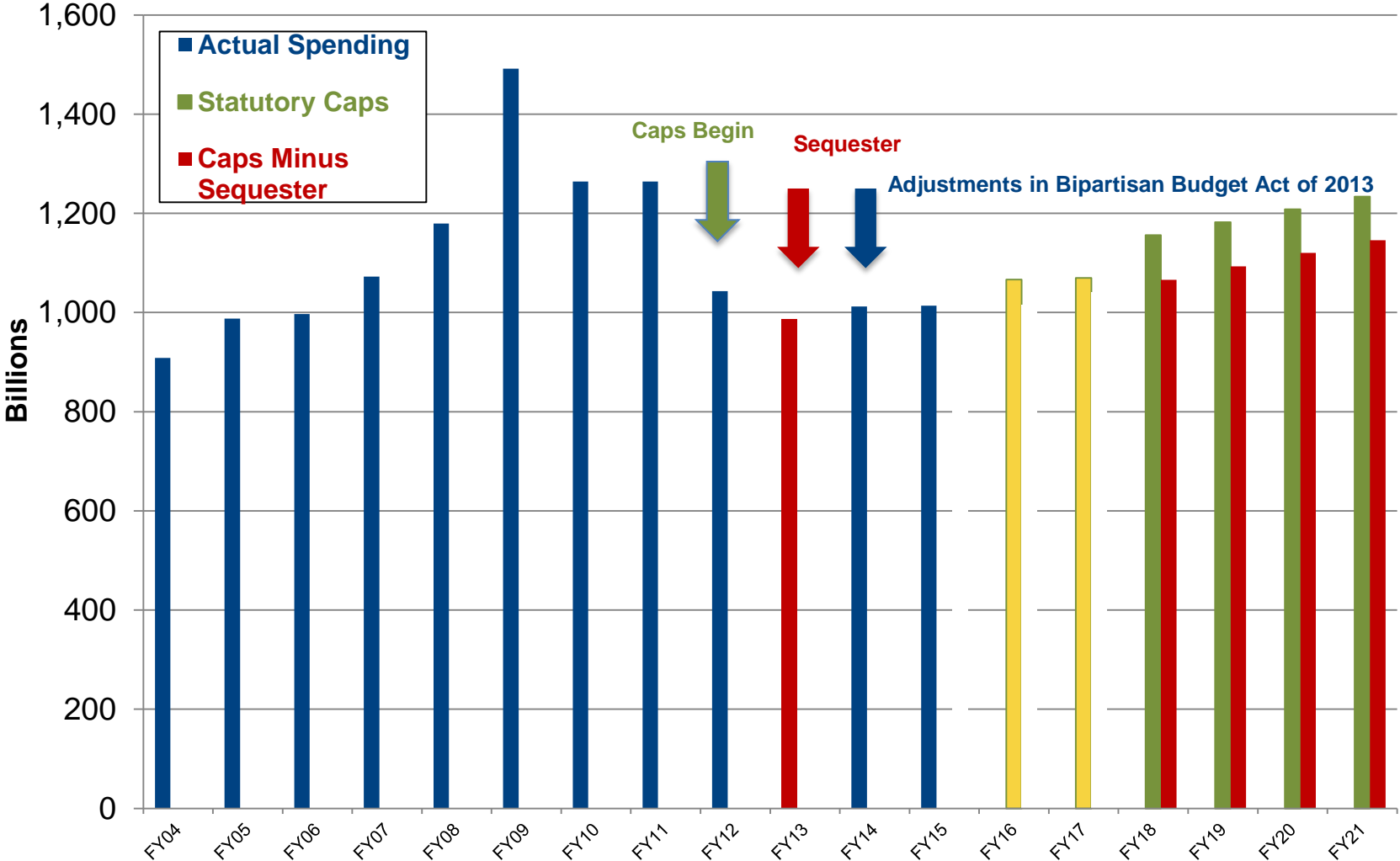
Source: The Oldaker Group

# Federal Discretionary Spending After BBA of 2013



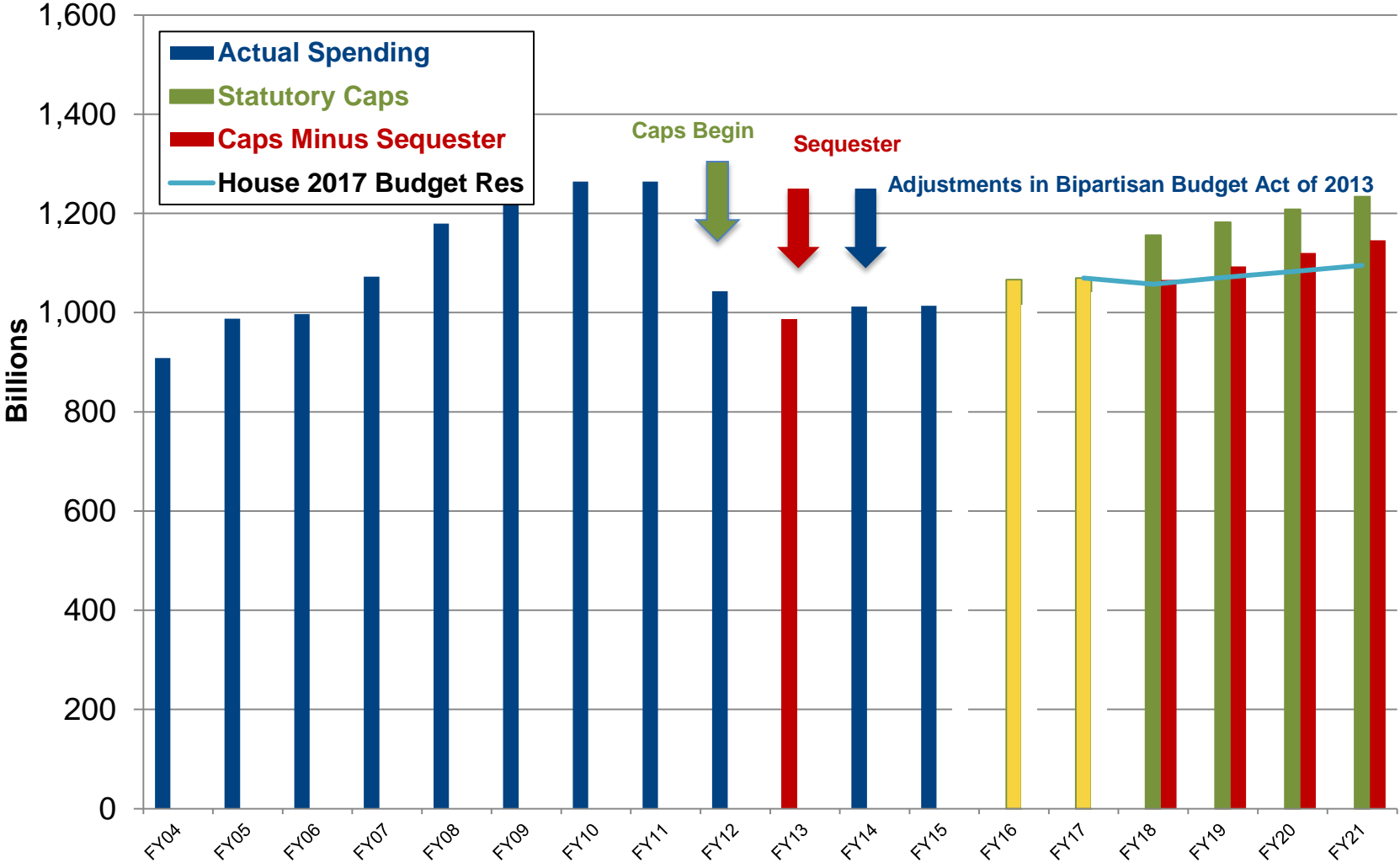
Source: The Oldaker Group

# Federal Discretionary Spending After BBA of 2015



Source: The Oldaker Group

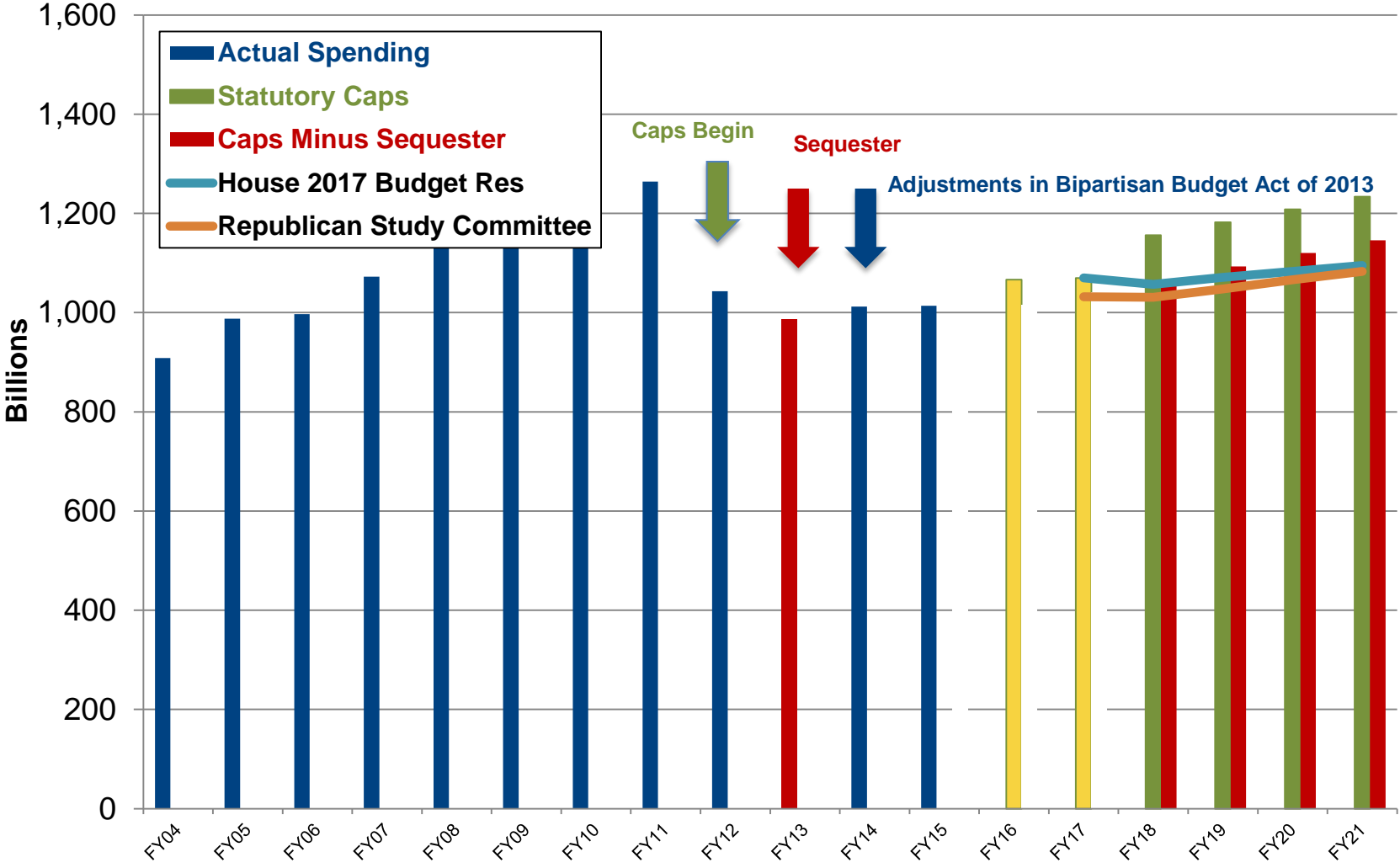
# Federal Discretionary Spending: House FY 17 Res.



Source: The Oldaker Group

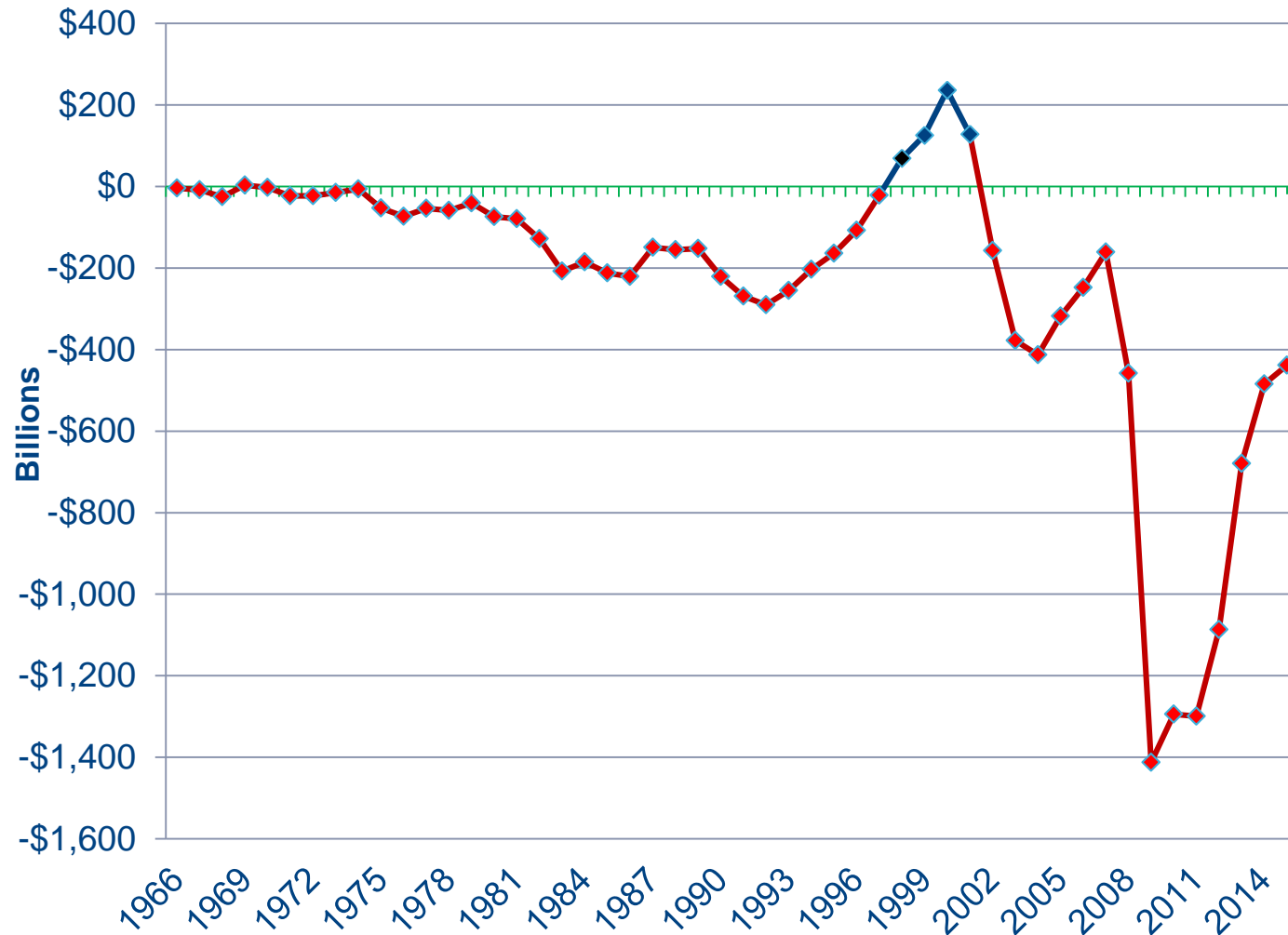


# Federal Discretionary Spending: House FY 17 Res.



Source: The Oldaker Group

# Federal Budget Deficits and Surpluses, 1966-2015



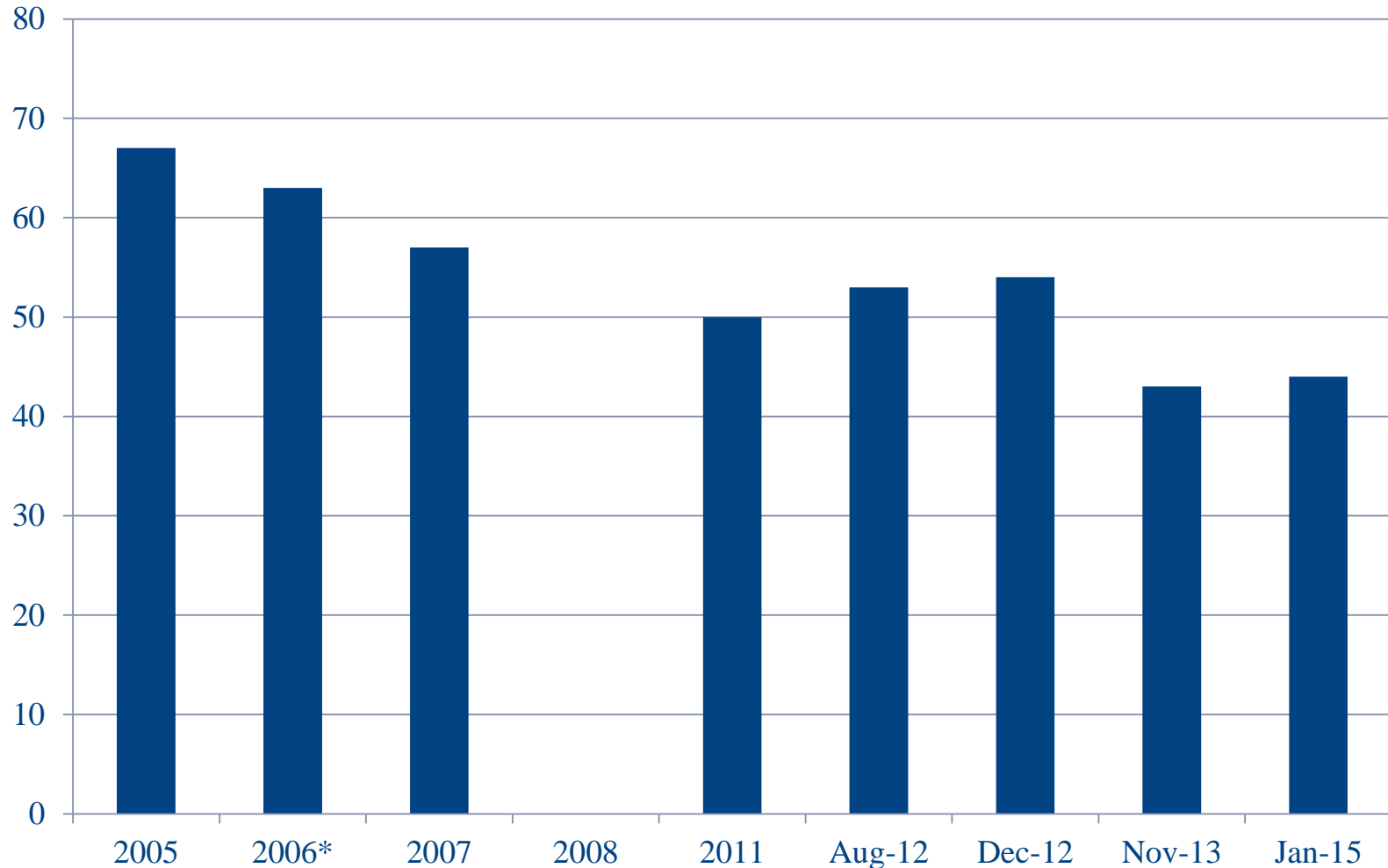
Source: The Budget of the U.S. Government

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# Context Still Matters

- Fiscal climate has an effect
- Effect may not be proportionate to the cause
  - ▣ Budget resolutions
  - ▣ Attitudes toward public investment

# Would you be willing to pay \$1 more in taxes for more health research?



Research!America

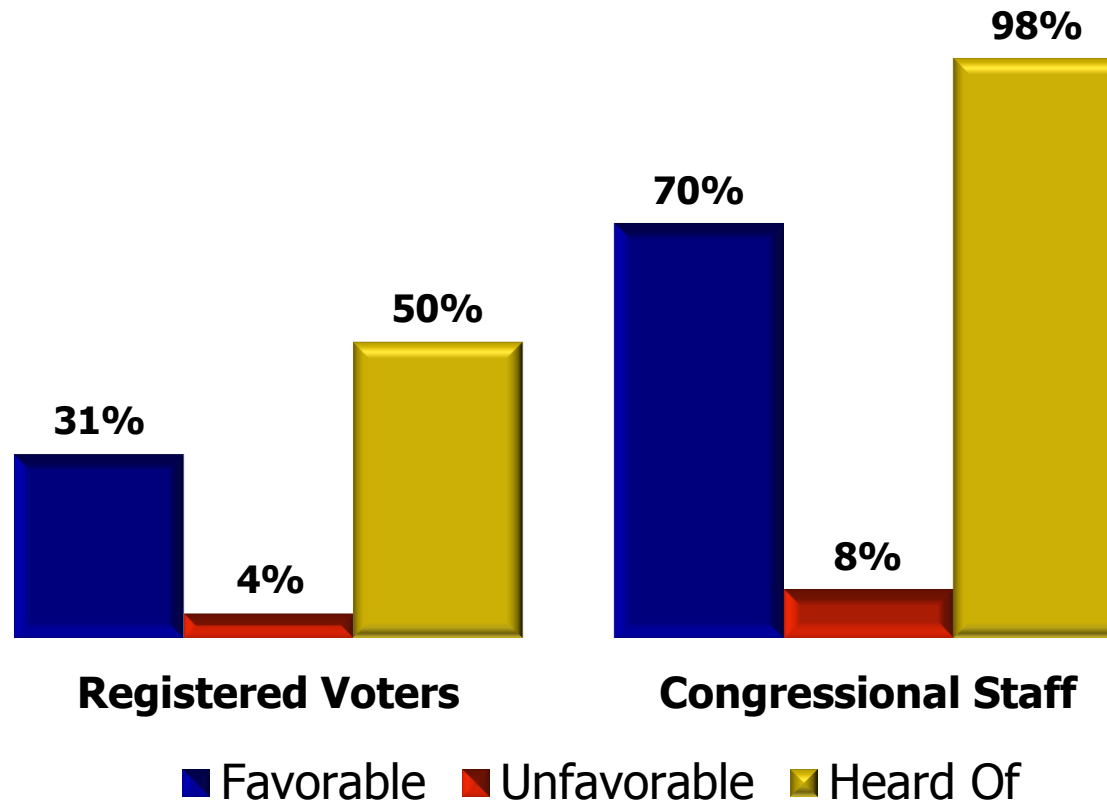
<http://www.researchamerica.org/polls-and-publications/polls/public-opinion-polls>

# Persistence Pays Off

- Relationships are built
- Attitudes change
- Opportunities emerge

# Congressional staffers are more familiar with NIH and feel more favorably towards NIH compared to voters

*AAMC DC Congressional Omnibus Survey – Congressional Staffers – June 2004*



**AAMC Compendium of Opinion Research  
Medical Research/Federal Funding – October 2011**

# What Arguments Work Best?

- Economic benefit
- Foreign competition
- Threats to security
- Genuine desire to push frontiers of knowledge

# Most convincing reason to FAVOR increasing the NIH budget

<i><u>DC Congressional Survey – Congressional Staffers – February 2006</u></i>	<i><u>1<sup>st</sup> Choice</u></i>	<i><u>1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Choices</u></i>
<i>Find new treatments and cures for diseases</i>	<b>43%</b>	<b>63%</b>
<i>Improve the quality of life and save lives</i>	<b>14%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<i>Reduce health care costs by developing new cost-efficient treatments that help reduce hospital stays</i>	<b>14%</b>	<b>34%</b>
<i>Stay competitive globally</i>	<b>12%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<i>Generate regional and local economic growth</i>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<i>Prevent the loss of a generation of medical researchers to other careers</i>	<b>5%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<i>Respond to an aging population with chronic diseases</i>	<b>2%</b>	<b>13%</b>



# AAMC/Research Means Hope

## 2008 Focus Groups

### Reasons to Support Medical Research:

- The most compelling message was one of hope and the need to invest for our future
- Benefit to the local community was less compelling
- Less compelling were arguments based on economic/global competition
- Least effective
  - ▣ Job creation
  - ▣ Failure to keep pace with inflation

# Going Forward

- Fight against arbitrary budget caps on investment
- Redouble efforts to compete for existing resources
- Keep up the pressure
- Use a variety of arguments
- Lead with our strength: science brings progress



Thank You