



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SCIENCE AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT Howard H. Garrison

American Institute of Physics

Assembly of Science Officers Annual Meeting 3.24.2016

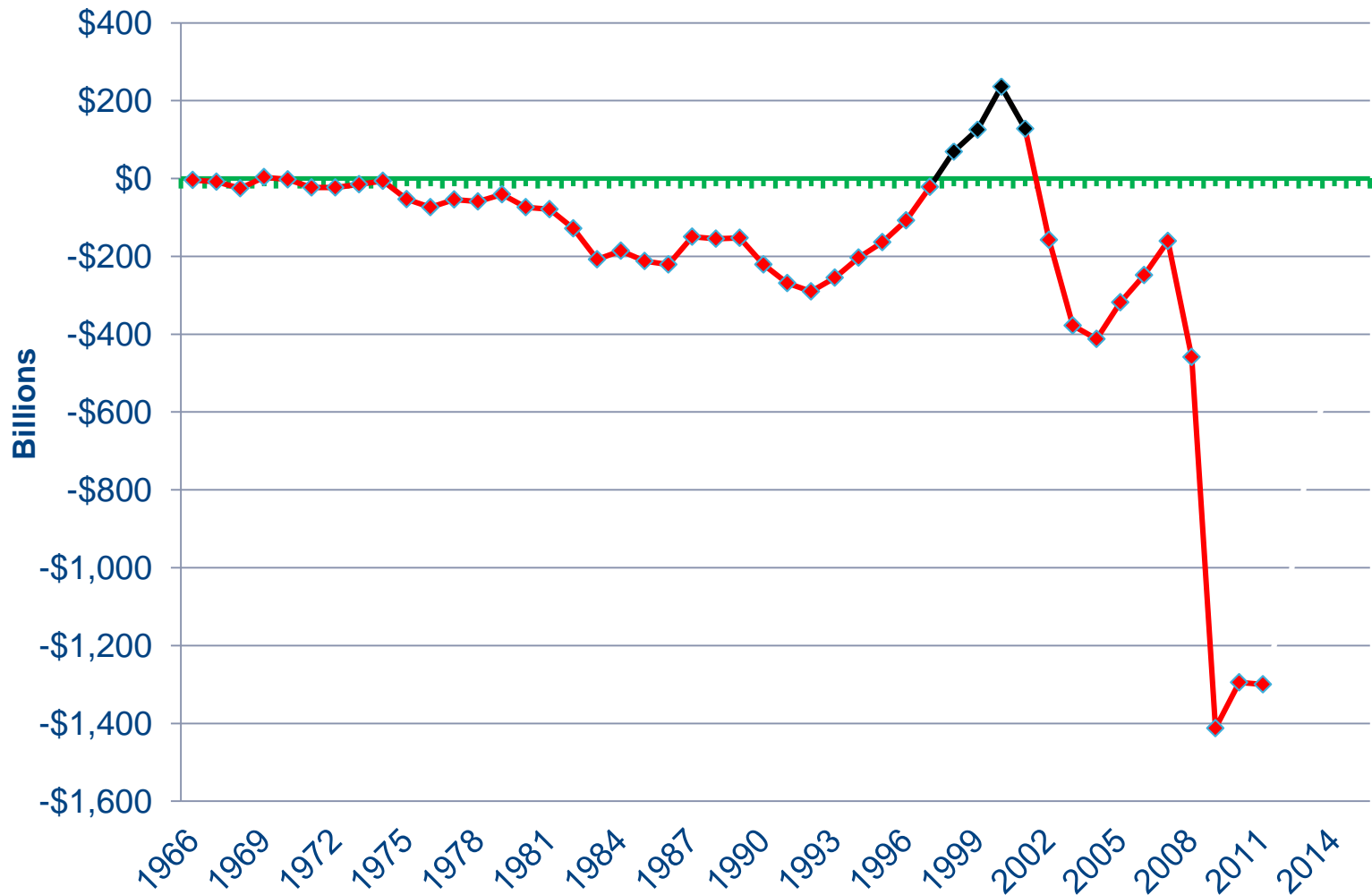
Four Questions

- 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

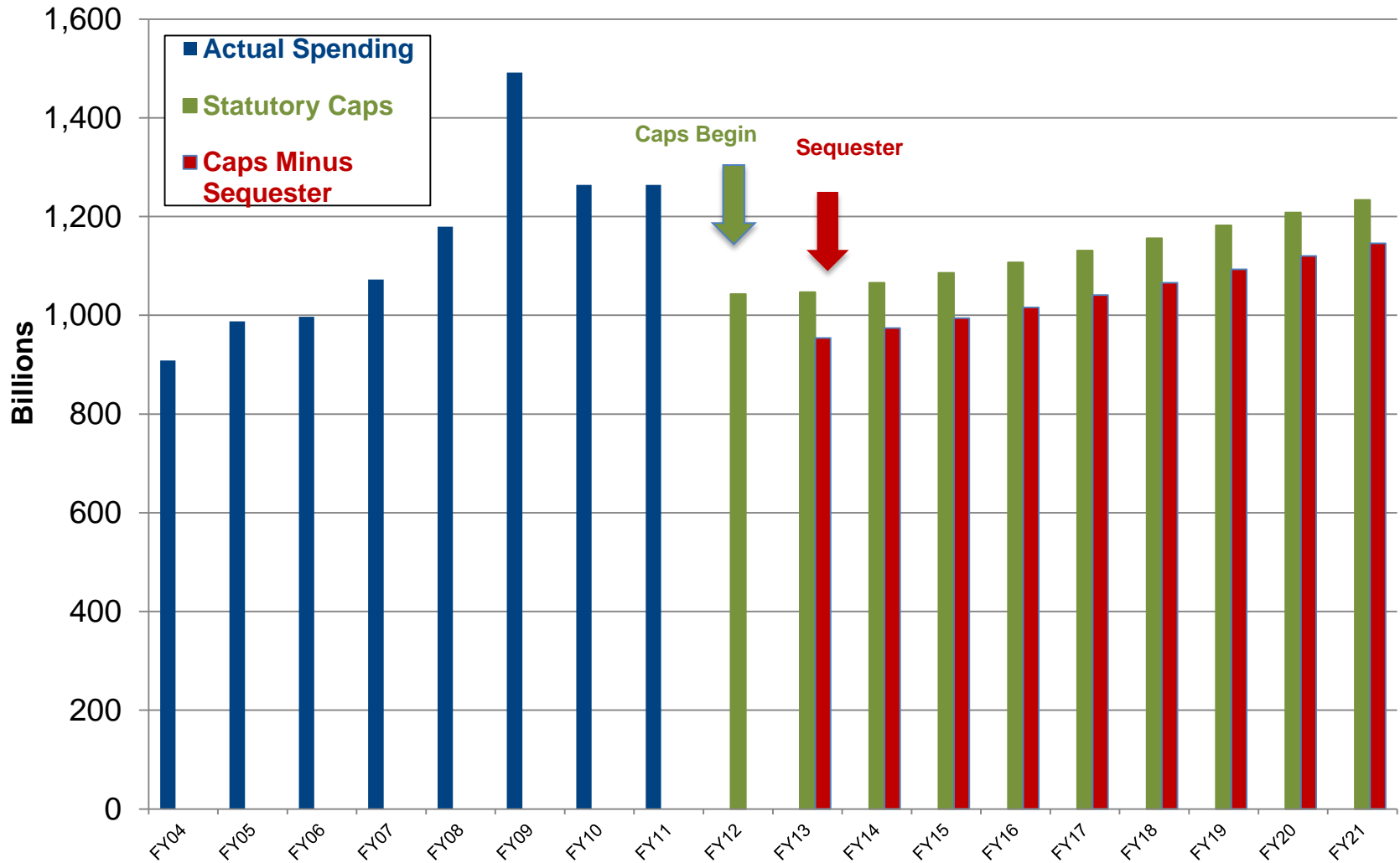
Federal Budget Deficits and Surpluses, 1966-2011



Source: The Budget of the U.S. Government

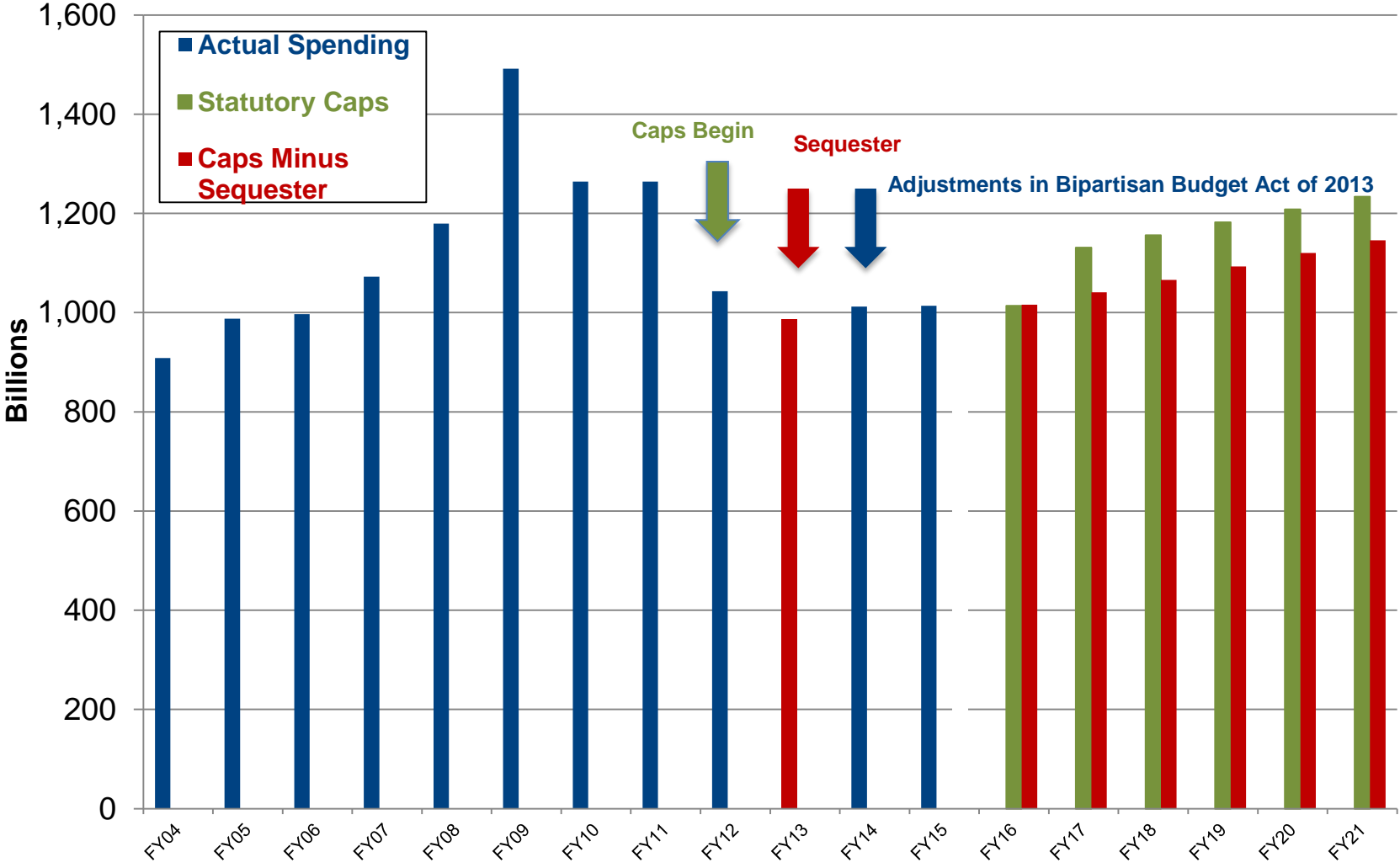
<http://m.gpo.gov/budget/>

Federal Discretionary Spending Under BCA of 2011



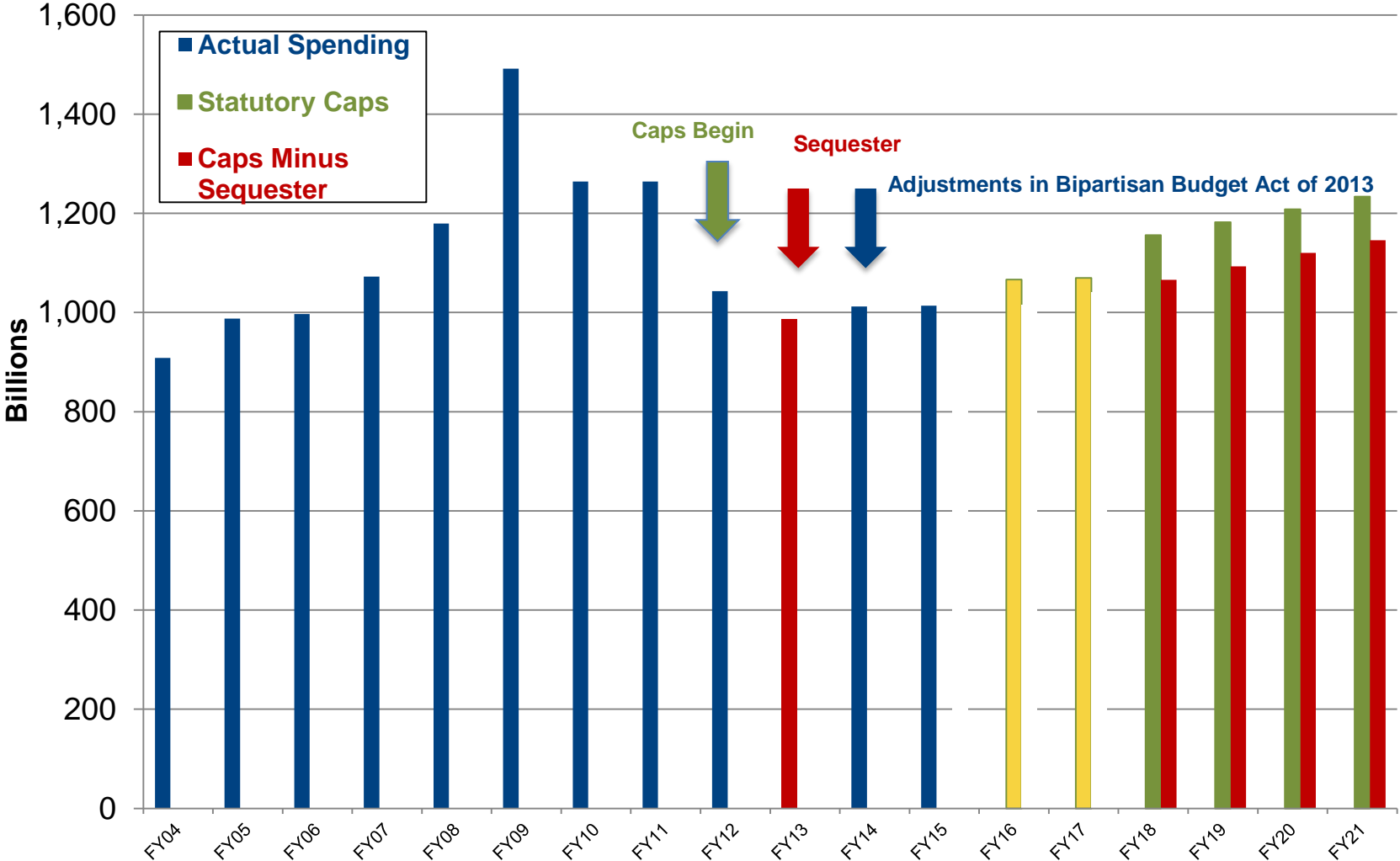
Source: The Oldaker Group

Federal Discretionary Spending After BBA of 2013



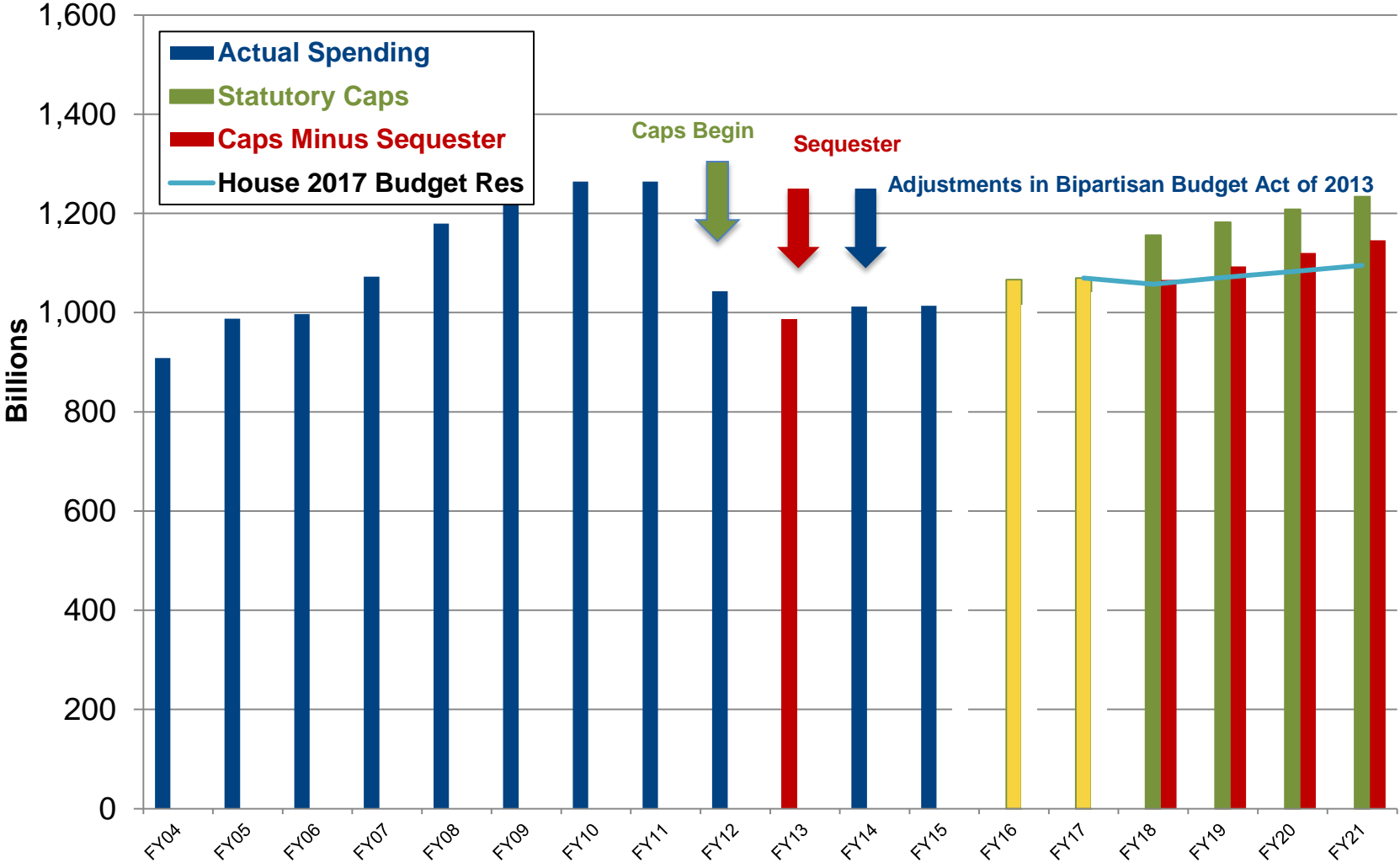
Source: The Oldaker Group

Federal Discretionary Spending After BBA of 2015



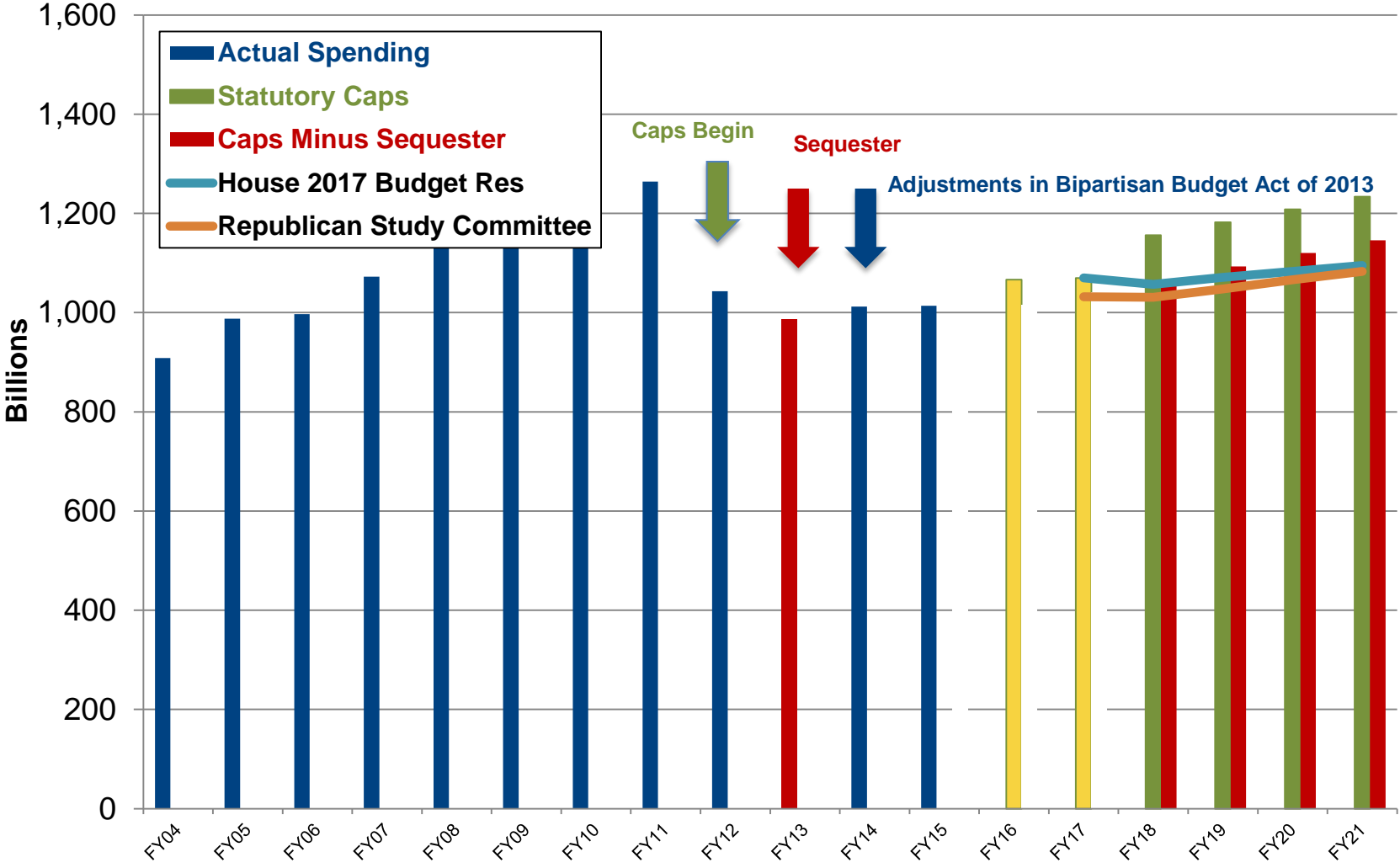
Source: The Oldaker Group

Federal Discretionary Spending: House FY 17 Res.



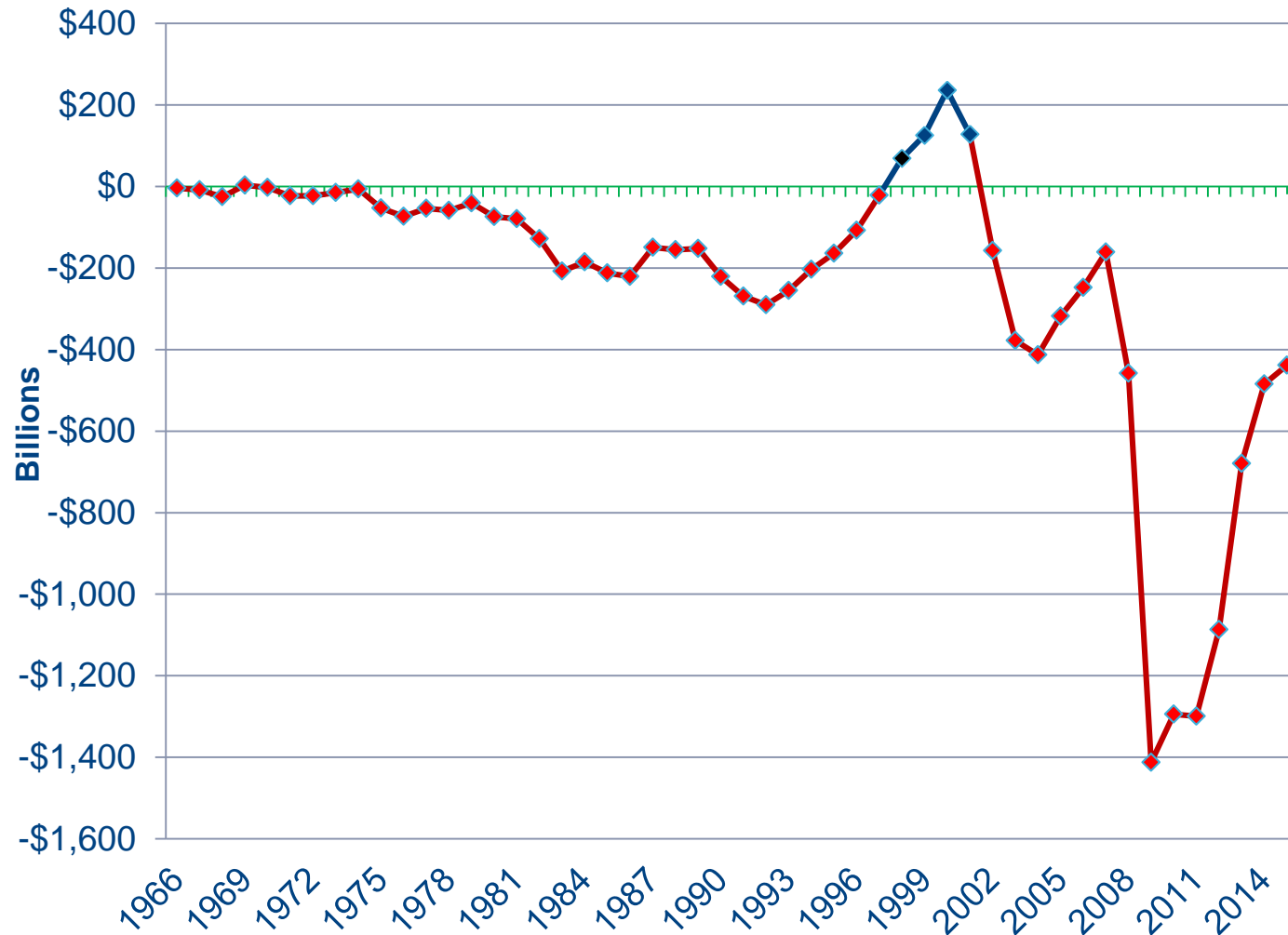
Source: The Oldaker Group

Federal Discretionary Spending: House FY 17 Res.



Source: The Oldaker Group

Federal Budget Deficits and Surpluses, 1966-2015



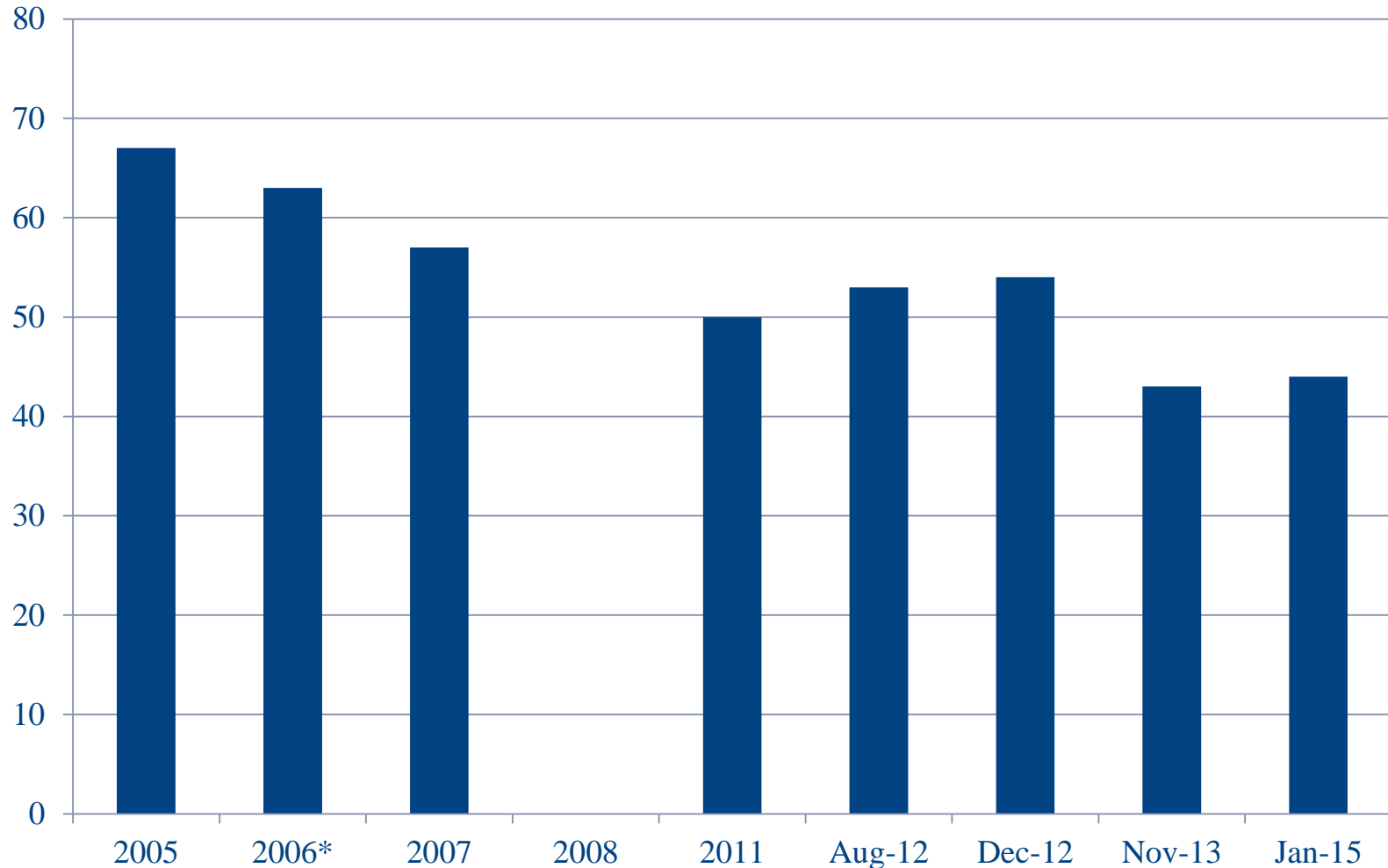
Source: The Budget of the U.S. Government

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

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

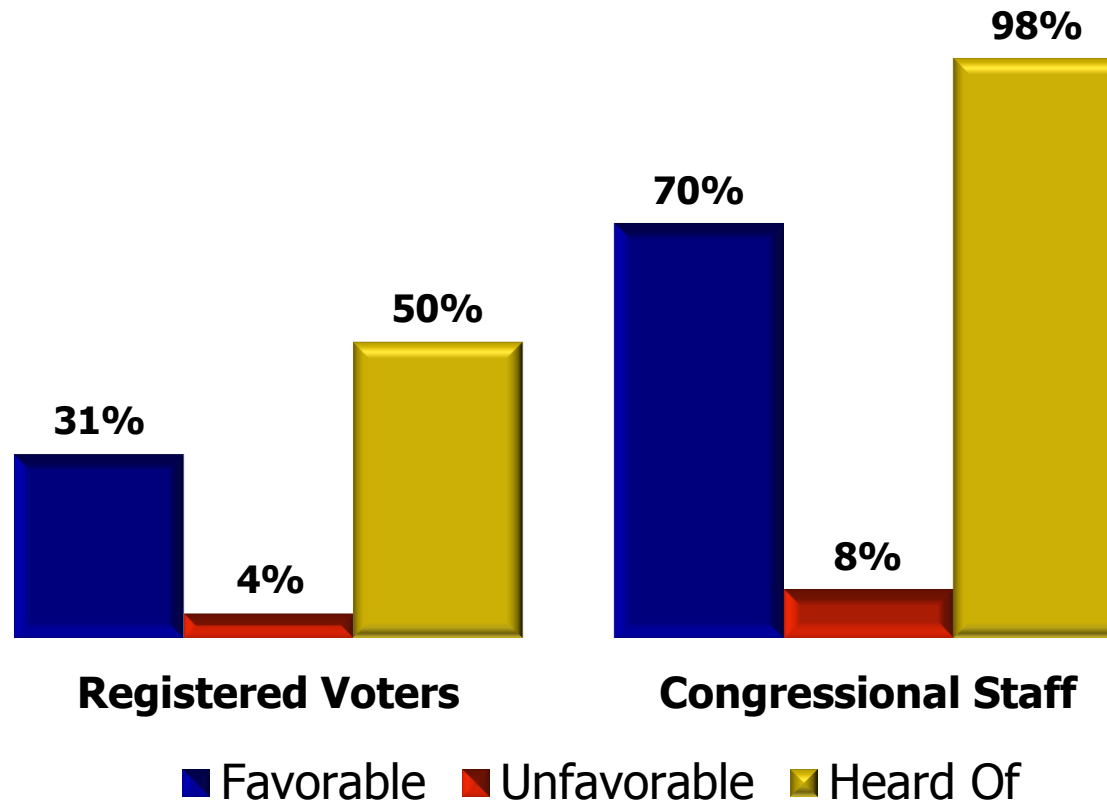
<http://www.researchamerica.org/polls-and-publications/polls/public-opinion-polls>

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

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