

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Schumer, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the undersigned coalitions, which represent 500 combined member organizations – we are writing to urge Members of the 115th Congress to pass a bipartisan budget agreement that increases the spending caps for both defense and non-defense discretionary programs. A bipartisan budget agreement is needed to maintain robust federal investments in America’s scientific and innovation enterprise.

For decades, sustained federal investment in scientific research, engineering, and technology development has been critical in driving economic growth, providing for our national defense, and maintaining global competitiveness. Congress continued its longstanding support for fundamental scientific research with the passage and enactment of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017. Likewise, past bipartisan and bicameral efforts, such as the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 that raised the Budget Control Act (BCA) caps for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 demonstrated your commitment to the nation’s scientific and innovation enterprise. This two-year reprieve from BCA spending caps resulted in steady and growing federal investments in many areas of scientific research, including: agricultural research, defense, education, energy, medicine, space science, the physical sciences, and engineering. We call on you to reaffirm your commitment to scientific research by crafting a budget agreement that raises the spending caps for defense and non-defense discretionary programs.

Two years ago, more than 500 organizations from all 50 states representing American industry, education, science, and engineering endorsed the statement *Innovation: An American Imperative*. This clarion call-to-action urged Congress to enact policies and make investments to ensure that the United States would remain a global innovation leader. As a nation, we are competing against China, South Korea, and various European countries to be at the forefront of scientific discovery, technology development, and the leader in innovative ideas and concepts. While the United States has been holding overall federal funding flat, competitor nations are making long-term investments in scientific research. Simply put, for the United States to remain a global leader in science and innovation, we must make federal investment in science a national priority. Robust investments in federally-funded research are only possible if there is a bipartisan budget agreement that increases the spending caps for defense and non-defense discretionary programs.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to act decisively in favor of American innovation, so that our nation's economic health, national security, and global competitiveness will be assured for future generations.

Cc:

Senate Committee on the Budget
Senate Committee on Appropriations
House Committee on the Budget
House Committee on Appropriations

Sincerely,

Amy Scott
Co-Chair, **CNSF**
Association of American Universities

Erin Heath
Co-Chair, **CNSF**
American Association for the Advancement
of Science

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) *is an alliance of professional organizations, universities, and businesses united in our support for sustained and robust funding for National Science Foundation (NSF).*

Tannaz Rasouli
Executive Director, **Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research**
Association of American Medical Colleges

The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research *is a coalition of patient and voluntary health groups, medical and scientific societies, academic and research organizations, and industry that support enhancing the federal investment in the biomedical, behavioral and population-based research conducted and supported by the National Institutes of Health.*

Karl Anderson
Co-Chair, **AFRI**
American Society of
Agronomy,
Crop Science Society of
America, Soil Science
Society of America

Meghan O'Brien
Co-Chair, **AFRI**
American Society for
Microbiology

Juli Obudzinski
Chair, **AFRI**
National Sustainable
Agriculture Coalition

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Coalition *is a coalition of scientific societies and science advocacy organizations who support full appropriations of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program over time.*

Alison Mize
Co-Chair, **BESC**
Ecological Society of America

Robert Gropp, Ph.D
Co-Chair, **BESC**
American Institute of Biological Sciences

The Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) *is an alliance of scientific and professional societies, associations, and academic institutions united by a goal to enhance awareness and appreciations for the biological and ecological sciences on Capitol Hill, the White House, and in federal agencies.*

Madeline Nykaza
Co-Chair, **CAS**
University of Michigan

Frank Slazer
Co-Chair, **CAS**
Aerospace Industries Association

The Coalition for Aerospace and Science (CAS) *is an alliance of industry, university, and science organizations united in our support for robust and sustainable federal funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).*

Dr. Keith Yamamoto
Chair, **The Coalition for the Life Sciences**
University of California, San Francisco

The Coalition for the Life Sciences (CLS) *is an alliance of professional organizations working together to foster public policies that advance basic biological research and its application in medicine and other fields.*

John Latini
Chair, **Coalition for National Security Research**
The Pennsylvania State University

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) *is a broad-based coalition of 74 members including industry, research universities and institutes, and scientific and professional associations committed to a strong Defense Science and Technology Program.*

Chris Carter
Co-Chair, **ESC**
University of California

Leland Cogliani
Co-Chair, **ESC**
Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC

The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) *is a broad-based coalition of organizations representing scientists, engineers, and mathematicians in universities, industry, and national laboratories who are committed to supporting and advancing the scientific research programs of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.*

Juliane Baron
Chair, **Friends of the Institute for Education Sciences**
American Educational Research Association

The Friends of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) supports the critical research, data, statistics and evaluation programs at IES. Our mission is to advance the objectives of IES and encourage federal investment to conduct the highest quality education research, data collection, evaluations and dissemination at IES.

Craig D. Fisher, Psy.D.
Chair, **NICHD**
American Psychological Association

Mary Jo Hoeksema
Vice Chair, **NICHD**
Population Association of America

The Friends of National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is an independent coalition of over 100 organizations formed in the mid-1980's to support the important role of NICHD. Member organizations represent scientists, physicians, health care providers, patients and parents concerned with the health and welfare of women, children, families and people with disabilities.

Charles O'Keefe Ph.D.
Co-Chair, **NIDA**
Virginia Commonwealth University

William Dewey, Ph.D.
Co-Chair, **NIDA**
Virginia Commonwealth University

The Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is a coalition of individuals, scientific and professional societies, patient groups and other organizations committed to the elimination of drug abuse and addiction through education, advocacy, and the promotion of broad public and private support for the research agenda of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. As part of National Institutes of Health, NIDA funds 85 percent of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse.

Carlo DiClemente, Ph.D.
Chair, **Friends of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism**
Research Society on Alcoholism

The Friends of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) mission is to advance the application of knowledge and science to the solution of problems created by alcohol in our society.

Mary Woolley
President, **Research! America**

***Research! America** is the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance working to make research to improve health a higher national priority. We urge Congress and the administration to increase funding for NIH, CDC, AHRQ, FDA, and NSF at levels that keep pace with scientific opportunity. We also advocate for federal funding for global health research and a legislative and regulatory climate that stimulates growth in private sector research and development.*

Glynda Becker
President, **The Science Coalition**
Washington State University

***The Science Coalition** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of more than 50 of the nation's leading public and private research universities. It is dedicated to sustaining the federal government's investment in basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, spur innovation and drive America's economic competitiveness.*

David Isaacs
Co-Chair, **TFAI**
Semiconductor Industry Association

Kathleen N. Kingscott
Co-Chair, **TFAI**
IBM Research

***The Task Force on American Innovation** is an alliance of America's leading companies and business associations, research university associations, and scientific societies that advocates on behalf of federal funding of basic research in the physical sciences and engineering.*

Lizbet Boroughs
President, **United for Medical Research**
Association of American Universities

***United for Medical Research (UMR)** is a coalition of leading research institutions, patient health advocates, and private industry that have joined together to seek steady increases in funding for the National Institutes of Health.*