

May 17, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear President Trump, Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McCarthy, McConnell, and Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned coalitions, which represent 500 combined member organizations, we write to urge the White House and Congress to begin negotiations and ultimately reach a bipartisan budget agreement to raise the defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps for FY20 and FY21 above the levels specified in the Budget Control Act (BCA). A bipartisan agreement is needed to permit robust federal investments in America's scientific enterprise and ensure that the United States remains the global innovation leader.

Federal scientific research investments through the discretionary budget provide the foundation for technological innovation that has and continues to underpin our nation's economic and national security. The Internet, stealth technology, communications and weather satellites, GPS technologies, bar codes, MRIs, touchscreens, and many medical therapies trace their roots to scientific research investments funded by the federal discretionary budget.

We applaud the bipartisan support for scientific research in FY19. The previous bipartisan agreement to raise the BCA discretionary caps was critical to enabling that support. Federal investments in FY19 are supporting vital research in areas such as: artificial intelligence, machine learning, biomedical research seeking cures to diseases, additive manufacturing or 3D printing, semiconductor and microelectronics development, quantum computing, hypersonics, and advanced materials. Federal investments in these areas are important to our nation being the technological leader in the future. However, unless the White House and Congress act, the BCA caps will have a devastating impact on these important research areas by arbitrarily cutting approximately \$225 billion from the discretionary budget during the next two years.

Competing nations are substantially investing in scientific research and threatening our global leadership in technological innovation. China is on track to surpass the United States in total research and development expenditures; the United States is no longer the world leader in research publication output; American patent productivity is now behind East Asia; and we are behind China and the European Union in the total number of bachelor's degrees in science and

engineering awarded. Simply put, for our nation to remain a global innovation leader, we must make federal scientific research investments a national priority. The first step is to lift the BCA caps to ensure there are sufficient funds to invest in research.

We urge you 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.

Sincerely,

John Latini
Chair, **Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)**
Penn State University

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) is a broad-based alliance of more than 100 members from industry, academia, scientific and professional organizations, and non-profits committed to advocating for a strong Defense Science and Technology enterprise.

Amy Scott Co-Chair	Erin Heath Co-Chair
Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) Association of American Universities (AAU)	Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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 the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Alex Currie
President, **United for Medical Research (UMR)**
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

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 (NIH).

David Isaacs Co-Chair	Kathleen N. Kingscott Co-Chair
Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI) Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)	Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI) IBM Research

The Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI) 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 engineering.

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America

The Research!America alliance advocates for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all.

Felice J. Levine
Chair, **The Friends of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES)**
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.

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.

Chris Carter
Co-Chair
Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC)
Lehigh University

Leland Cogliani
Co-Chair
Energy Sciences Coalition (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.

Nuala Moore
Co-Chair
**Friends of the National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)**
American Thoracic Society

Joe Laakso
Co-Chair
**Friends of the National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)**
Endocrine Society

The Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is a broad coalition of public and environmental health and research-focused organizations who support, follow and call attention to the vital work being done by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

Heather Bené
President, **The Science Coalition**
University of Colorado Boulder

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.

Joe Laakso
Chair
**Friends of the National Institute of Child
Health and Human Development (NICHD)**
Endocrine Society

Erin Kramer
Vice-Chair
**Friends of the National Institute of Child
Health and Human Development (NICHD)**
American Society for Reproductive Medicine

The Friends of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is an independent coalition of over 100 organizations formed to advocate for the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and promote NICHD-funded research advances.

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 (NIH).

Karl Anderson
Co-Chair
**Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
(AFRI) Coalition**
American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science
Society of America, Soli Science Society of
America

Nichelle Harriott
Co-Chair
**Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
(AFRI) Coalition**
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
(NSAC)

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.

Jordan Wicker, Co-Chair
Coalition for Aerospace and Science (CAS)
Purdue University

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).

William L. Dewey, Ph.D, Chair
The Friends of the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Virginia Commonwealth University

The Friends of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is a coalition of individuals, scientific and professional societies, patient group 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 the National Institutes of Health, NIDA funds 85 percent of the world's research on health aspects of drug abuse.

cc:

Office of Management and Budget
U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations