

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
<b>Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)</b> Association of American Universities (AAU)	<b>Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)</b> 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
<b>Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI)</b> Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)	<b>Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI)</b> 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