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AAU APPLAUDS FY13 APPROPRIATIONS ACTIONS THUS FAR

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the Association of American Universities, on FY13 appropriations.

The Association of American Universities applauds Congressional appropriators for their bipartisan actions thus far to sustain the nation’s investment in scientific research in Fiscal Year 2013. The Administration deserves credit as well for having proposed laudable budget targets for federal science programs.

In legislation progressing through Congress, there is strong support for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, and NASA’s research programs. Members of Congress of both parties are working to sustain these investments in scientific research despite increasing pressure on overall nondefense discretionary spending.

There is still a long way to go in this process, and we remain concerned about FY2013 appropriations for other science agencies, particularly the National Institutes of Health. We also remain deeply concerned about the potential impact on all federally supported scientific research of the budget sequestration due to take effect in January 2013. In addition, we strongly oppose the Flake amendment to the House-passed Commerce, Justice, Science bill eliminating NSF support for peer-reviewed research in political science.

We strongly urge Congress and the Administration to enact bold bipartisan balanced deficit reduction measures that seriously address this nation’s long-term debt challenge. Relying on cuts in nondefense discretionary spending to reduce deficits, which has been the primary strategy thus far, will lead inevitably to significantly reduced investments in education and research, reductions that our nation simply cannot afford.

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The Association of American Universities is an association of 59 preeminent U.S. research universities and two Canadian counterparts organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate and professional education, undergraduate education, and public service in research universities.

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