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More than 3500 Organizations Demand End to Sequestration Cuts

Unprecedented joining of groups across all sectors sends a clear message to Congress and the White House that with 2.14 million jobs on the line, it is long past time to avert devastating sequestration budget cuts.

Washington, D.C. – More than 3500 organizations from all sectors of the economy and society joined forces today to urge Congress and President Obama to put an immediate end to sequestration budget cuts which threaten to send the economy reeling back into recession and destroy more than two million American jobs.

“Discretionary spending programs are not the reason for our growing debt, and yet they are always the first place lawmakers look for cuts,” said Emily Holubowich, Executive Director of the Coalition for Health Funding and spokesperson for NDD United. “Our goal is to speak with one voice to educate policymakers and the public about the importance of these programs. When you do the math, sacrificing these programs not only wouldn’t balance the budget, it would cripple our ability to grow in the future.”

The unprecedented array of groups involved represents a wide variety of Americans, from manufacturers to health professionals, academic researchers to social workers. Their goal in uniting today is to draw greater attention to the devastating impact of sequestration cuts to all Americans, regardless of industry or sector.

“The danger that sequestration poses to the economy and our national security cannot be overstated,” said Aerospace Industries Association President and CEO Marion C. Blakey. “More than two million jobs are at stake from all sectors. Sequestration affects all Americans and we must pull together to set it aside.”

According to a study performed by Dr. Stephen Fuller of George Mason University, sequestration budget cuts would cost 2.14 million jobs, 1.05 million from spending reductions at domestic discretionary agencies and 1.09 million from DOD spending reductions. These losses would fall across all job descriptions from manufacturing to retail, from professional business services to federal workers and from researchers to nurses. Small businesses would be hit particularly hard, losing more than 956,000 jobs.

“Our nation needs a balanced, strategic approach to its fiscal challenges. The indiscriminate budget cutting required by sequestration is not the answer,” said Wes Bush, Northrop Grumman chairman, chief executive officer and president. “We urge Congress and the Administration to work together on a solution to avoid sequestration’s devastating impacts on
the nation’s security, economy, all aspects of the federal government, as well as research and education that drives innovation in our country.”

“Sequestration is a reckless and blunt tool that would force deep spending reductions across critical investments in research and education,” APLU President Peter McPherson said. “If we’re not going to develop the next technology at our universities then other nations will. These short-sighted cuts would result in the loss of 200,000 research-related jobs over the next four years alone and cause the U.S. to fall far behind other nations in developing the future technology that can power economies for decades. Why would we cede such extraordinary opportunities to China and India when we have the opportunity to continue leading the world in innovation?”

Scientific research drives innovation, productivity, job creation and growth. Technological advances such as the laser, the Internet and the Web, GPS, and the large-scale integrated circuit all had their origins in federally-funded, long-term research.

“Funding science and research is a necessary investment for a country that seeks to expand its economy and maintain its global leadership,” said Association of American Universities President Hunter Rawlings. “Pulling back on those investments, especially when other nations are ramping up theirs, is short-sighted and will leave our nation less able to sustain the economic growth it needs to create jobs and eliminate budget deficits in future years.”

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The Association of American Universities is a nonprofit association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities. Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

Founded in 1919 shortly after the birth of flight, the Aerospace Industries Association is the most authoritative and influential trade association representing the nation’s leading manufacturers and suppliers of civil, military and business aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aircraft systems, space systems, aircraft engines, missiles, homeland and cybersecurity systems, materiel and related components, equipment services and information technology.
Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is a research, action, and advocacy organization of public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state university systems. As the nation’s oldest higher education association, APLU is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery, and engagement. Member campuses enroll more than 3.6 million undergraduate and 1.1 million graduate students, employ more than 670,000 faculty and administrators, and conduct nearly two-thirds of all university-based research, totally more than $34 billion annually.

NDD United represents the breadth of diverse interests in nondefense discretionary programs, including education and job training, public health and safety, law enforcement, science, natural resources, housing, social services, and infrastructure. Together, NDD United is working to strengthen America by protecting these core government functions from additional cuts.

Formed in 2004, the Task Force on American Innovation (TFAI) is an alliance of America's most innovative companies, leading research universities, and largest scientific societies. The group’s mission is to support scientific research in the physical sciences and engineering. The Task Force is based in Washington, DC, working with the Administration and Congress to support the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Defense Department, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.