AAU EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR HOUSE FY15 COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on the FY15 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee. The bill is expected to be considered on the House floor this week.

We wish to express our strong support for passage of the FY2015 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill. We strongly urge the House to sustain the funding levels currently in the bill for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

These investments in critical science agencies are needed if America is to close its innovation deficit and stay at the forefront of scientific discoveries and innovation. We face increasing challenges from our international competitors. To sustain our lead, we must invest in scientific research, technology, and education. Passage of this bill will provide much needed increases in federal funding for NSF and NASA, two agencies that have been vital to America's research and technology enterprise for the last 50 years. An increase in funding for NASA would prove instrumental in supporting a broad range of scientific and technology-driven missions. Likewise, an increase in funding for NSF -- an agency that is the cornerstone of America's research and STEM education enterprise -- would provide vital federal funding for all the scientific disciplines.

It is due to the strong leadership of Subcommittee Chairman Frank Wolf and Ranking Member Chaka Fattah that the CJS bill contains these much needed investments for scientific research, education, and technology. We are grateful to Chairman Wolf, Representative Fattah, and the entire membership of the House Appropriations Committee for making support for science and research a priority in this legislation. Again, we strongly encourage the full House to follow suit by sustaining this critical funding and passing this legislation.

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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.
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