STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INVESTMENT IN HOUSE FY05 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation issued the following statement on the increase in key basic (6.1) and applied (6.2) defense research programs approved by the House of Representatives on Tuesday, June 22, as part of the FY05 defense appropriations bill. The bill provides $6.14 billion for these research programs, an increase of more than $300 million over FY04. The Administration proposed a $600 million cut in the programs.

“The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation applauds the House of Representatives for proposing to increase significantly the nation’s investment in key basic and applied defense research programs. This increase will help secure our nation by providing more of the ideas, knowledge, and highly trained and specialized personnel required to meet our future military challenges. Much of this fundamental defense research is conducted at America’s universities, and the Task Force hopes that the Senate will at least match this increase when it takes the defense appropriations up on the Senate floor in the coming weeks.”

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation is a broad-based group composed of industry, higher education, and scientific societies, concerned about declining federal investment in scientific research and training in the physical sciences and engineering.