May 4, 2022

Dear Chairs DeLauro and Leahy and Ranking Members Granger and Shelby:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities and America’s leading research universities, we urge you to make investing in student aid, higher education, and scientific research a top priority as you consider FY23 302(b) discretionary spending allocations.

We are grateful that Congress took affirmative steps in the final FY22 appropriations measures to boost federal investments in some research agencies and student aid programs. You have an opportunity now to take another step in FY23 to renew the government-university partnership and its ability to strengthen U.S. competitiveness and serve critical national interests. Research, student aid, and higher education have been hobbled by years of underinvestment. Strong and sustained investments in these areas are essential to bolster America’s leadership in science and innovation; to ensure that we have a highly skilled workforce; and to strengthen our economic competitiveness, our health, and our national security.

We urge you to approve sufficient FY23 discretionary spending allocations this spring that will enable additional investments in student aid and research and permit the appropriations process to be completed on time. The FY23 allocations should reflect bipartisan measures currently before Congress to bolster research, STEM education, and innovation programs as well as the administration’s recommended FY23 boosts in research and student aid – such as a $1,775 increase to the maximum annual Pell Grant as a down payment toward eventually doubling it. We specifically recommend that you ensure that the 302(b) allocations for the Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy and Water Development, and Labor-HHS-Education subcommittees support significant investments in research and student aid programs, including: the National Science Foundation (NSF); NASA’s science, aeronautics, and space technology programs; the Department of Energy’s Office of Science and ARPA-E; the National Institutes of Health (NIH); Pell Grants and other student aid programs; the Institute for Education Sciences; and the Department of Education’s graduate and international education programs.
We also urge you to strengthen our nation’s innovation system through robust research investments for the Department of Defense’s 6.1 basic research program, DARPA, and other science and technology programs; the Department of Agriculture’s AFRI program; and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our nation. We look forward to working with you to ensure the United States remains the global innovation leader.

Sincerely,

Barbara R. Snyder
President

cc: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees