



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

April 21, 2015

Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Duke University
Emory University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
Iowa State University
The Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University
Michigan State University
New York University
Northwestern University
The Ohio State University
The Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rice University
Rutgers, The State University
of New Jersey
Stanford University
Stony Brook University –
State University of New York
Texas A&M University
Tulane University
University at Buffalo –
State University of New York
The University of Arizona
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa
Barbara
The University of Chicago
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Florida
University of Illinois, Urbana-
Champaign
The University of Iowa
The University of Kansas
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Missouri, Columbia
The University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
The University of Texas at Austin
University of Toronto
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cochran, and Ranking Members Lowey and Mikulski:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities, an organization with 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States, we urge you to make research and higher education programs a top priority as you consider the FY 2016 302 (b) allocations.

Investments in higher education and research are proven drivers of economic growth. They are vital for the development of new technologies, processes, and a workforce that will advance our national security, our energy self-sufficiency, and our citizens' health. With our investments in scientific research having flattened out and competitor nations pouring resources into research and higher education, we face a significant innovation deficit that threatens our nation's global economic preeminence. If not addressed, it will soon force us to surrender America's position as the global innovation leader.

Austere budgets and the spending cuts enacted under sequestration may have helped reduce the budget deficit in the short term, but they have widened the innovation deficit. This undermines economic growth and harms our nation's overall fiscal health, thereby worsening long-term federal budget deficits and the national debt. Federal investments in research and higher education are not inconsistent with long-term deficit reduction; in fact they are vital to it.

The FY 2016 appropriations process provides an important opportunity to put our country on a path to closing the innovation deficit by reducing the gap between actual and needed federal investments in scientific research and higher education. As you consider FY 2016 spending measures, we urge you to seize this opportunity and ensure that the 302 (b) allocations for the Labor-HHS-Education, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Energy and Water Development subcommittees support robust investments in research and higher education agencies and programs, including: the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, NASA's

science and technology programs, Pell Grants, Department of Education research programs, and other federal higher education programs. We also urge you to recommit to strong research investments in other agencies—the Departments of Defense and Agriculture, and the National Endowment for the Humanities—as you determine 302 (b) allocations and set priorities for the various appropriations measures.

Ignoring the innovation deficit will have serious consequences, including: a less prepared, less highly skilled U.S. workforce; fewer U.S.-based scientific and technological breakthroughs; fewer U.S.-based patents; fewer U.S. start-ups, products, and jobs; and reduced economic performance and security.

Please use the 302 (b) allocations process to enable Congress to make a significant down payment toward closing our nation's innovation deficit in FY 2016. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hunter R. Rawlings III" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hunter R. Rawlings III
President
Association of American Universities

cc: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees