



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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 University – New Brunswick
 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
 The University of Wisconsin - Madison
 Vanderbilt University
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Yale University

August 3, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
 Speaker of the House
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
 Democratic Leader
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
 Majority Leader
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
 Democratic Leader
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi, and Reid:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities, the organization of 60 leading U.S. research universities, we strongly urge you to ensure that the 114th Congress completes the FY17 appropriations process. We are deeply concerned by recent comments by some Members of Congress proposing to put off this responsibility until next year.

We understand the challenges of completing the appropriations process in regular order before the new fiscal year begins on October 1, and the resulting need for a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government operating through the upcoming election. However, we strongly believe Congress can return after the election, as it has so often in the past, to complete the process.

There are a number of reasons this is the preferable course of action.

First, we are sure you would agree that Congress has an obligation to make decisions each year on funding for each of the agencies, and that these important decisions for the Department of Defense, the Department of Education, and a host of other agencies should not be put on autopilot.

Second, Congress has already made significant progress on the FY17 appropriations process. To their credit, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have both approved each of their 12 appropriations bills. These bills, even if not passed by the full House and Senate, provide a solid basis for negotiating any differences and completing several appropriations bills and/or an omnibus appropriations bill based on those negotiations. Putting off this process to the next Congress creates a strong risk of a year-long CR. We hope you share our goal of avoiding this result.

Finally, we believe key choices made by the appropriators thus far can strengthen our country by enhancing college access, bolstering scientific research, and injecting new resources into the search for treatments and cures for diseases that afflict millions. Specifically, both the House and Senate committees have proposed significant increases in funding for the National Institutes of Health and the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, as well as modest increases for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science. The Senate committee has

proposed restoring the year-round Pell Grant, which would improve time to degree for more than a million low-income students. Additionally, the House committee has proposed important funding increases for NASA's science, aeronautics, and space technology programs.

We strongly urge Congress to enact a short-term CR through the end of 2016 and to return following the election to complete work on FY17 appropriations.

Sincerely,



Mary Sue Coleman
President

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Steve Scalise, House Majority Whip
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Democratic Whip
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, House Majority Conference Chair
The Honorable James Clyburn, House Assistant Democratic Leader
The Honorable Luke Messer, House Majority Policy Committee Chair
The Honorable Xavier Becerra, House Democratic Caucus Chair
The Honorable John Cornyn, Senate Majority Whip
The Honorable Dick Durbin, Senate Democratic Whip
The Honorable John Thune, Senate Majority Conference Chair
The Honorable John Barrasso, Senate Majority Policy Committee Chair
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senate Democratic Policy Committee Chair
The Honorable Roy Blunt, Senate Majority Conference Vice Chair
The Honorable Patty Murray, Senate Democratic Conference Secretary
Members of the House Appropriations Committee
Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee