



ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES



ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC &
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES

ACE American
Council on
Education™
Leadership and Advocacy

February 3, 2016

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

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 member colleges and universities of the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and the American Council on Education (ACE), which include all of the major public and private research universities in the U.S., we wish to thank you again for giving priority to many research and higher education programs in the FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

After several years of sequestration cuts and declining federal investments in scientific research and higher education programs, Congress took affirmative steps in FY 2016 to begin reinvesting in these areas, which are vital to our country's economic and national security. This funding is a strong step in the right direction to help prevent an innovation deficit. According to the National Science Board's just-released *2016 Science & Engineering Indicators*, the major Asian economies, taken together, now perform a larger share of global R&D than the U.S. From 2003 to 2013, the share of worldwide R&D performed by Asian countries grew from 27 percent to 40 percent. Meanwhile, the U.S. share of the world's R&D fell from 35 percent to 27 percent.

We write now to urge you to sustain the momentum of FY 2016 spending decisions and make scientific research and higher education programs a top priority as you consider the FY 2017 302 (b) allocations.

History has demonstrated that innovation is the proven pathway to long-term economic growth. Innovation drives the American economy, and higher education and research and development drive American innovation. Since the end of World War II, federal investments in research and higher education programs have paid enormous dividends to our nation in the form of job creation, economic growth, higher standards of living, improved health, and enhanced national security.

As you consider FY 2017 spending measures, we urge you to ensure that the 302 (b) allocations for the Labor-HHS-Education, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Energy and Water Development subcommittees will support robust investments in research and higher education 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, aeronautics, and space technology programs, the Institute for Education Sciences, Pell Grants, and other federal student aid programs.

We also urge you to recommit to strong research investments in other agencies—the Departments of Defense and Agriculture, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Agency for International Development—as you determine 302 (b) allocations and set priorities for the various appropriations measures.

We understand how important subcommittee allocations are to the end results of the appropriations process. Please use the allocations process to enable Congress to make significant progress in FY2017 toward preventing an American innovation deficit. Thank you for considering our views.

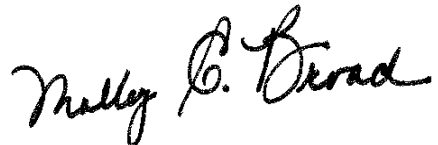
Sincerely,



Hunter R. Rawlings III
President
AAU



Peter McPherson
President
APLU



Molly Broad
President
ACE

cc: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees