

Coalition for
National Security Research

June 13, 2016

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

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of the Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR), a broad-based coalition of research universities and institutes, scientific and professional associations, and industry, we write to thank you for your overall support for the Defense Science and Technology (S&T) program in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Given current fiscal constraints, we applaud the Committee for providing a 2.8 percent increase over the FY 16 enacted funding level for the overall Defense S&T program. While we appreciate the Committee partially restoring the cuts made in the Administration's request for 6.1 basic research, we note with significant concern that the proposed funding level for 6.1 is still below the FY 16 enacted level. In particular, we are concerned to see a proposed 16-percent cut to Navy 6.1 basic research as compared to FY 16. As you likely know, the Navy is the largest defense agency sponsor of university scientific research.

We commend the Committee for its leadership in providing additional support for 6.2 applied research and 6.3 advanced technology development especially for materials research, cybersecurity and UAS. In addition, your support of DARPA and the Defense Health program will enable continued efforts by our members to address such challenges that impact our wounded warriors, such as infectious diseases, nerve regeneration, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and hearing and vision loss.

As the FY 17 appropriations process progresses, we look forward to working with you to secure robust investments in Defense S&T, especially in basic research. We also stand ready to partner with DOD to provide research and the future workforce to help realize our military's future capabilities. As the world continues to become more volatile and dangerous, defense research funding ensures that our best and brightest are actively engaged now and in the future to provide America's military technical superiority.

Sincerely,

Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)

MISSION

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) is a broad-based alliance of industry, research universities and institutes, and scientific and professional organizations committed to advocating for a strong Defense Science & Technology (S&T) enterprise, with particular emphasis on basic (6.1) and applied (6.2) defense research. Whether it is developing weapons systems, cybersecurity capabilities, protecting the warfighter, or developing technologies used to heal the wounded, the Defense S&T program serves as the foundation upon which U.S. military technical superiority is built. CNSR's advocacy with Congress and the Administration supports long-term, robust funding for basic and applied research, as well as Department of Defense-funded educational programs that cultivate a new generation of talented engineers and scientists.

CNSR MEMBERS

American Association for the Advancement of Science	Pace University
American Chemical Society	Penn State University
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering	Princeton University
American Institute of Physics	Purdue University
American Mathematical Society	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
American Physical Society	Semiconductor Industry Association
American Psychological Association	Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
American Society for Engineering Education	SRI International
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	The State University of New York
Arizona State University	Texas A&M University
Association of American Universities	University of Arizona
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	University of California System
Battelle	University of California – Irvine
Boston University	University of California – Los Angeles
Brown University	University of California – San Diego
California Institute of Technology	University of Chicago
Carnegie Mellon University	University of Cincinnati
Columbia University	University of Central Florida
Computing Research Association	University of Colorado
Consortium for Ocean Leadership	University of Houston
Cornell University	University of Maryland at College Park
Duke University	University of Michigan
Energetics, Inc.	University of Missouri System
Federation of Materials Societies	University of Nebraska
Florida International University	University of North Carolina System
George Mason University	University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
Georgia Institute of Technology	University of Pennsylvania
Harvard University	University of Pittsburgh
Indiana University	University of Rochester
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers	University of South Florida
The Johns Hopkins University	University of Southern California
Louisiana State University	University of Tennessee
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Virginia
Materials Research Society	University of Washington
Michigan State University	University of Wisconsin - Madison
New Mexico State University	Vanderbilt University
Northern Illinois University	Washington State University
Ohio State University	Washington University in St. Louis
Optical Society of America	West Virginia University
Oregon State University	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Oregon Health and Sciences University	Yale University