



- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- California Institute of Technology
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Harvard University
- Indiana 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
- Tufts 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
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- 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
- The University of Utah
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- The University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Yale University

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Granger and Murray and Ranking Members DeLauro and Collins:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and America’s leading research universities, we urge you to prioritize investments in higher education, scientific research, and student aid as you finalize FY24 302(b) discretionary spending allocations. In a time of deep concern about our national debt and America’s ability to compete with other nations, we must recognize that these areas of the discretionary budget provide long-term dividends to our economic and national security that far outweigh their costs. Slashing these budget items will, in the long run, cost our country far more than any short-term savings they may seem to provide.

We urge you instead to make strategic investments in student aid and research in FY24 discretionary spending allocations. These allocations should reflect bipartisan measures already approved by Congress to bolster research and innovation programs as well as the administration’s recommended FY24 boosts in student aid – such as an \$820 increase to the maximum annual Pell Grant as a down payment toward eventually doubling it.

We specifically recommend that you ensure that 302(b) allocations for the Labor-HHS-Education subcommittees support significant investments in research and student aid programs, including: the National Institutes of Health (NIH); Pell Grants and other student aid programs; the Institute for Education Sciences (IES); and the Department of Education’s graduate and international education programs.

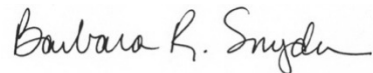
We also request robust 302(b) allocations for the Commerce-Justice-Science and Energy and Water Development subcommittees to support significant investments within the following agencies: National Science Foundation (NSF); NASA’s science, aeronautics, and space technology programs; and the Department of Energy’s Office of Science and ARPA-E. We commend your efforts in FY23 to increase funding for these accounts and encourage you to continue that trajectory in FY24 and beyond.

Funding for these sources is particularly important because of some unfinished business. Last year the CHIPS and Science Act (P.L. 117-167) became law after garnering bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. This legislation is a crucial step toward the United States maintaining our global leadership in research, technology, and innovation. While the law provided funding for the CHIPS provisions, it only authorized – without funding – its science provisions. The science authorization provisions outline the policy and programs that will ensure the United States stays ahead in the future and stave off future crises in our ability to compete globally – but we can only do so if these forward-thinking provisions are actually funded. Now is the time for Congress to start fulfilling the legislation by providing sufficient 302(b) allocations to effectuate the CHIPS and Science Act.

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 (NEH).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara R. Snyder".

Barbara R. Snyder  
President