

September 5, 2017

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

As Congress resumes its work on the FY18 budget and appropriations, I write on behalf of the Association of American Universities, an association of 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States, to urge you to reach a bipartisan budget agreement to raise the FY18 defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps and complete FY18 appropriations this fall.

A bipartisan budget agreement is important to bolstering the unique partnership the federal government forged with American research universities. This partnership has fostered unprecedented scientific achievement and economic growth since World War II and generated untold job growth, improved our national health and well-being, and strengthened our national security.

Congress took steps in FY16 and FY17 to reinvest in research and higher education programs after several years of sequestration cuts and declining investment. We strongly urge you to continue this momentum and reach a bipartisan agreement that allows for robust investments in research and higher education programs critical to our nation's security and prosperity, including: Pell Grants and other federal student aid programs; the National Institutes of Health; the National Science Foundation; the Department of Energy's Office of Science and Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E); the Department of Defense 6.1 basic research and other Science and Technology programs; NASA; the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative; the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences; and Title VI International Education programs.

Now is not the time to turn our backs on what has helped make our nation the greatest and most advanced economy in the world. We stand ready to work with you

in support of bipartisan budget decisions that sustain this extraordinary partnership and strengthen our nation.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Sue Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Mary Sue Coleman
President
Association of American Universities

CC: Members of the House and Senate Budget Committees
Members of the House and Senate Appropriations