



February 15, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Mulvaney, Speaker Pelosi, and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR), of which the undersigned organizations are members, respectfully urges the White House and Congressional leadership to reach a bipartisan budget agreement to raise the discretionary budget caps.

At a time when our military's unmatched technological superiority is being challenged by the investment of competing global powers, including China,¹ we cannot allow the Budget Control Act (BCA) caps to restrict funding for scientific research and technological development. To ensure U.S. military preeminence in the world and successfully execute the National Defense Strategy, we must be able to invest in cutting edge capabilities.

While we support raising both the defense and nondefense discretionary budget caps, we are greatly concerned about the harmful impact on the Defense Science & Technology (S&T) program that would result from outsized reductions in the defense budget cap in fiscal years (FY) 2020 and 2021. Under BCA, the defense base budget cap is slated to decline from its FY 2019 level by \$71 billion in FY 2020 and by \$56 billion in FY 2021. Reductions of this magnitude would result in substantially fewer resources for the Defense S&T program, which would limit discoveries that ultimately provide the warfighter with the technical capabilities to defeat new and emerging threats.

Despite growing challenges, the U.S. military remains the most dominant fighting force in the world. Superior technology that other nations cannot match is one key reason why that remains

¹ <https://armedservices.house.gov/2018/4/promoting-dod-s-culture-of-innovation>

true. Our technical supremacy is largely the outcome of investments in the Defense S&T program including the defense basic research programs, as well as civilian science agency programs. Specifically, current military capabilities such as unmanned systems, laser technologies, counter-stealth technology, underwater weapons systems, and biological detection capabilities all stem from the Defense S&T program. Looking ahead, we cannot let arbitrary budget caps limit our ability to invest in game-changing technologies such as quantum information sciences, hypersonics, high energy lasers, artificial intelligence, and advanced microelectronics that will ensure our continued worldwide military dominance.

We strongly urge the White House and Congress to negotiate a bipartisan budget deal to raise the BCA discretionary budget caps for FY 2020 and 2021. Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please do not hesitate to contact us at cnsr.dodresearch@gmail.com if we can be any assistance.

Sincerely,

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Mathematical Society (AMS)
American Psychological Association (APA)
American Society for Engineering Education
Arizona State University
ASME
Association of American Universities (AAU)
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
Battelle
Boston University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Cornell University
Duke University
Energetics, Inc.
Federation of Materials Societies
Florida International University
Florida State University
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
IEEE-USA
Indiana University
Lehigh University
Louisiana State University
Louisiana Tech University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society

Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
New Mexico State University
Northeastern University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Oak Ridge Associated Universities
Ohio State University
Oregon Health and Sciences University
Oregon State University
Pace University
Penn State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
SRI International
Temple University
Texas A&M University
The Catholic University of America
The George Washington University
The Johns Hopkins University
The State University of New York
University of Arizona
University of California System
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of Central Florida
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder

University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Houston
University of Illinois System
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Maryland at College Park
University of Michigan
University of Missouri System
University of Nebraska
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina System
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Tennessee
University of Texas System
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Washington State University
West Virginia University
William & Mary
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Yale University