



February 9, 2018

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:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities, an association of 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States, I thank you for your efforts to reach a deal to raise the defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps. Our nation is now better able to reinvest in national priorities, including research and higher education programs that sustain our long-standing government-university partnership.

We urge Congress to use the budget agreement to revitalize the government-university partnership through increased investments in: the Department of Defense's 6.1 basic research programs, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science and Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, NASA, the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences, Title VI International Education programs, Pell Grants, and other federal student aid programs.

Now is the time to focus your bipartisan efforts on legislation providing permanent legal status for DACA registrants and Dreamers, as the President and a number of policymakers in both political parties have proposed. We stand ready to work with you to this end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Sue Coleman".

Mary Sue Coleman
President

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