



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

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Diane Black
Chairman, Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Ranking Member, Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Chairman, Budget Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member, Budget Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Black and Enzi and Ranking Members Yarmuth and Sanders:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities, an association of 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States, we urge you to approve a FY18 budget resolution that increases discretionary spending caps to allow sufficient investment in research and higher education programs to help build a better America and sustain our nation's global leadership in science and innovation.

For decades, federal investments in scientific research and higher education have paid enormous dividends in medical advancements, new technologies, and enhanced national security, and at the same time created entire new industries, new businesses, and high-paying jobs. We are concerned that proposals to slash federal research and higher education programs would cripple our ability to do our part in generating economic growth and providing more jobs for Americans.

After several years of sequestration cuts and declining federal investments in research and higher education programs, Congress took steps in FY16 and FY17 to begin reinvesting in these areas, which are vital to our country's economic and national security. As other countries seek to bolster their research and education investments, our nation must take additional steps to prevent an American innovation deficit. The current Budget Control Act FY18 discretionary spending caps are a significant retreat from sufficiently investing in our nation's future. 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.

As you craft the FY18 budget resolution, we specifically urge you to raise the discretionary spending caps to levels that will ensure that the Appropriations Committees can make allocations for the Labor-HHS-Education, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Energy and Water Development subcommittees to support robust investments in key research and higher education programs, including: the National Institutes of Health; the National Science Foundation; the Department of Energy's Office of Science and Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy; NASA's science, aeronautics, and space technology programs; and the Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences, Title VI International Education Programs, Pell Grants, and other federal student aid programs. We also urge you to raise the

discretionary spending caps to allow strong research investments in other key agencies, including the Department of Defense, the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Sue Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Coleman" being more prominent than the middle name "Sue".

Mary Sue Coleman
President
Association of American Universities

cc: Members of the House Budget Committee
 Members of the Senate Budget Committee