



February 1, 2019

Senator Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Lowey and Ranking Members Leahy and Granger:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities, the association of America's leading research universities, we urge you to reach a bipartisan agreement on remaining FY19 appropriations decisions before the current continuing resolution expires. We also ask you to avoid a year-long continuing resolution that would leave on the table important increased research investments.

The unprecedented 35-day partial government shutdown caused significant harm and disruption to many in our country, including universities and researchers and their work on behalf of the American people. The shutdown led to delayed and lost research opportunities and had a demoralizing effect on university-based scientists, engineers, and scholars who count on the federal government to uphold its part of the government-university research partnership and keep its commitment to support their work. Between delayed research grant and contract award decisions, suspended research projects, and the uncertainty caused by the shutdown, this and the next generation of researchers felt firsthand the consequences of Washington's dysfunction. Another partial government shutdown would only cause further delay and harm to vital research and would compound the long-lasting, detrimental consequences for the nation's scientific enterprise.

We urge you to complete the remaining FY19 appropriations bills and invest in important research programs critical to our nation's security and prosperity, including: the National Science Foundation, NASA, USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other federal research agencies. Strong and growing federal investments in research are needed to drive innovation, job creation, and long-term economic growth while ensuring the U.S. remains the world's global innovation leader.

We stand ready to assist you. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Sue Coleman".

Mary Sue Coleman, President

cc: Conferees to the FY 2019 Homeland Security Appropriations