



October 5, 2018

Senator Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an association of 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States, we commend your leadership in completing five of the FY 2019 appropriations bills and ensuring continued operations for federal research, higher education, and other programs until later this fall.

We thank you for the strong investments in the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense's 6.1 basic research program and DARPA, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science and ARPA-E. We also commend you for the \$100 increase to the maximum Pell Grant award. We applaud this increased federal support for research and higher education that will help to ensure the U.S. remains the world's global innovation leader. These investments represent another important step in renewing the federal government-university partnership that has helped secure our nation and resulted in leaps in technological innovation, improved public health, and sustained economic growth.

After the November elections, we strongly urge you to complete the remaining FY19 appropriations measures and reinvest in other important research and higher education programs critical to our nation's security and prosperity, including: the National Science Foundation, NASA, the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. We urge you to avoid a partial government shutdown and the harmful disruptions it would cause to research and other federal programs. Now is not the time to settle on passing another continuing resolution and leave critical funding decisions on the table.

Thank you for considering our views and for your continuing efforts.

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" clearly legible.

Mary Sue Coleman, President

cc: Members of House and Senate Appropriations Committee