



September 11, 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 2051

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair, Senate LHHS-ED Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate LHHS-ED Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, House LHHS-ED Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House LHHS-ED Subcommittee
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 thank you for your work on the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, and we urge you to adopt at least the Senate-passed funding levels of \$39.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and \$6,195 for the maximum Pell Grant in the conference report.

Federal investment in NIH research continues to support the world's preeminent biomedical research enterprise. Sustained growth of NIH-funded research helps put more than 300,000 scientists to work at 2,500 institutions across the country including AAU member universities. In 2017 alone, NIH investments supported \$69 billion in economic activity, with 20 states experiencing NIH-supported economic activity of more than \$1 billion each in biomedical research, according to a recent report by [United for Medical Research](#). We also urge that the conference agreement exclude new restrictions on lifesaving research and maintain the Department Health and Human Services salary cap for extramural researchers at the Executive Level II.



AAU continues to strongly support federal investment in the Pell Grant program as it is the single most important tool to enabling low-income students to access and afford college. We urge adoption of the Senate-adopted \$100 increase to the maximum Pell Grant award. Within the Department of Education, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) continues to support high-quality education research that results in teaching and learning innovations that offer tremendous returns for society. The Senate-adopted \$615 million for IES would help build upon the essential research and data infrastructure on which state and local education leaders depend, restore cuts to critical programs, and increase funding for innovation programs. In addition, we support the Senate proposed \$350 million for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), which provides much needed support for a critical program utilized by thousands of Americans who dedicate their careers in service to our communities and the nation.

Strong and growing investments in research and higher education are needed to drive innovation, job creation, and long-term economic growth, while ensuring the U.S. remains the world's global innovation leader. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Sue Coleman, President

cc: Conferees to the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act