

October 18, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Pelosi and Minority Leader Schumer,

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR), represented by the undersigned organizations, respectfully urges Congressional leadership to begin negotiations on a bipartisan budget agreement to raise the discretionary budget caps. If the United States is to maintain its technical superiority on the battlefield, we must raise the arbitrary budget caps that are not only hurting our military readiness but severely restricting the U.S. Department of Defense's (DOD) ability to invest in the necessary scientific research to address both current challenges and develop the game-changing military capabilities of tomorrow.

The Budget Control Act (BCA) caps are preventing DOD from funding defense science and technology (S&T) and defense basic research at recommended levels. The caps also limit scientific research investments by civilian agencies in the areas of interest to our national security enterprise. The Council on Competitiveness and National Academies of Sciences recommend that defense S&T comprise three percent of total DOD spending and defense basic research comprise 20 percent of defense S&T. Based on fiscal year 2017 enacted appropriations, defense S&T comprises approximately 2.3 percent of total DOD spending or \$5.5 billion below recommended levels, and defense basic research comprises 16 percent of defense S&T or more than \$525 million below recommended levels. These numbers reflect Secretary Mattis' position that the "BCA caps obstruct our path to modernization, and continue to narrow the technical competitive advantage we presently maintain over our adversaries."

The U.S. military is the most dominant fighting force in the world in part because we have superior technology that other nations cannot match. This superiority is largely due to the defense S&T program including the defense basic research programs and investments made by civilian science agencies. Night vision, stealth technology, communication and weather satellites, precision munitions and global positioning technology all stem from the defense S&T program, and have provided paradigm shifts in the military's capabilities. Without federal investment in the defense S&T program, other nations may have developed these capabilities first, putting us at a competitive disadvantage on the battlefield.

We strongly urge Congress to begin negotiations on a bipartisan budget deal to raise the BCA discretionary budget caps for FY 2018 and beyond, continue the balanced investment crucial to our nation's health, security and economic prosperity. Our national security is enhanced when DOD budgets

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are based on needs and recommendations rather than arbitrary spending caps, and when we invest in the defense S&T program including the defense basic research programs.

Thank you for your consideration of your views. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at cnsr.dodresearch@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

CNSR Members

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
American Chemical Society (ACS)
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Mathematical Society (AMS)
American Psychological Association (APA)
American Society for Engineering Education
ASME
Arizona State University
Association of American Universities (AAU)
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
Battelle
Boston University
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Cornell University
Duke University
Energetics, Inc.
Federation of Materials Societies
Florida International University
Florida State University
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
IEEE-USA
Lehigh University
Louisiana State University
Louisiana Tech University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
New Mexico State University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Oak Ridge Associated Universities
Ohio State University
Oregon Health and Sciences University
Oregon State University

Pace University
Penn State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
The Johns Hopkins University
The Optical Society
The State University of New York
University of Arizona
University of California – Irvine
University of California – Los Angeles
University of California – San Diego
University of California System
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado
University of Houston
University of Iowa
University of Maryland at College Park
University of Michigan
University of Missouri System
University of Nebraska
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina System
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Tennessee
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington State University
West Virginia University
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Yale University

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