



February 13, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, DC 20503

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Mulvaney, Speaker Pelosi, and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and McCarthy:

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR), represented by the undersigned organizations, respectfully urges the White House and Congressional leadership to begin negotiations toward a bipartisan budget agreement to raise the discretionary budget caps.

As was described in Congressional testimony, our military's unmatched technological superiority is being challenged by the investment of competing global powers, including China¹. Now more than ever we cannot allow the Budget Control Act (BCA) caps to restrict our ability to fund the scientific research and technological development that will lead to cutting edge capabilities needed to ensure U.S. military preeminence in the world and successfully execute the National Defense Strategy.

While we support raising both the defense and nondefense discretionary budget caps, we are greatly concerned about the impact on the Defense Science & Technology (S&T) program that will likely be caused by the significant reduction in the defense budget cap in fiscal year (FY) 2020 and 2021. For FY 2020, the defense base budget cap is slated to decline by \$71 billion and by \$56 billion in FY 2021 relative to FY 2019 levels. Reductions of this magnitude will more than likely result in substantially fewer resources for the Defense S&T program, which will limit discoveries that ultimately provide the warfighter with the technical capabilities to counter new and emerging threats.

Despite growing challenges, the U.S. military remains the most dominant fighting force in the world. Superior technology that other nations cannot match is one key reason why that remains

¹ <https://armedservices.house.gov/2018/4/promoting-dod-s-culture-of-innovation>

true. Our technical superiority is largely the result of investments in the Defense S&T program including the defense basic research programs and by civilian science agencies. Specifically, current military capabilities such as drones, laser technologies, counter stealth technology, underwater weapons systems, and biological detection capabilities all stem from the Defense S&T program. We cannot let arbitrary budget caps limit our ability to invest in game-changing technologies such as quantum information sciences, hypersonics, high energy lasers, artificial intelligence, and advanced microelectronics that will ensure our continued worldwide military dominance.

We strongly urge the White House and Congress to begin negotiations on a bipartisan budget deal to raise the BCA discretionary budget caps for FY 2020 and 2021. Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please do not hesitate to contact us at cnsr.dodresearch@gmail.com if we can be any assistance.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)