

BUSINESS FOR FEDERAL RESEARCH FUNDING

October 26, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of Business for Federal Research Funding, a broad-based coalition of more than 75 chambers of commerce from across the country, we are writing to urge you to raise the FY18 defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps so you can complete the FY18 appropriations before December 9 when the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires. Reaching a bipartisan budget agreement to raise the caps and allow the appropriations process to proceed is crucial for continued investments in research across the country.

Raising spending caps in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 allowed for steady growth in scientific research in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. That same support for research funding was also evident in the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act. With the raising of spending caps, we ask that you continue these investments as you craft a final FY18 appropriations package and provide robust funding to key research accounts such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH); the Department of Energy (DOE); the National Science Foundation (NSF); the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, and Homeland Security. Continued, steady investments is the only way for the U.S. to remain a leader in scientific research.

The Business for Federal Research Funding coalition formed to support federal research funding and to bring a heightened focus to the critical impact that federal research has on our nation's competitiveness. The innovations that flow from basic research are at the root of countless companies, products, and jobs. These innovations lead to scientific breakthroughs and new technologies ranging from the internet to communications satellites to defenses against disease. And the return on investment can be seen in every corner of our country. The wide variety of industries represented by coalition members will be hampered without the investment of federal dollars in basic research.

The United States needs to remain competitive with countries like China and Germany in technology and research & development. We believe our congressional leaders should not be focused on how much to cut from these

budgets—rather, the focus should be on how much to invest in research in order to retain our global competitiveness. Funding for research accounts have seen increases in the past few fiscal years, but for agencies like NIH, funding has not kept pace with inflation. According to the NIH Office of Budget, since 2003 the U.S. spent \$111.7 billion less on NIH funding than it would have if it kept pace with medical research inflation. In order to prevent further stagnation of U.S. innovation, it is crucial that appropriators ensure reliable annual appropriations at a steady rate above inflation.

We thank the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for rejecting the Administration’s budget request, particularly the proposed \$5.8 billion cut to the NIH, and the \$1.7 billion cut to the Department of Energy. These cuts would have had devastating impacts on innovation, jobs, and the economy. According to a report released by United for Medical Research (UMR), research funded by NIH supported almost **380,000 jobs** and **\$65 billion in economic activity** across the United States in 2016. Simply put, investment in federally funded scientific research creates jobs, and we thank the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for not only strongly rejecting these proposed cuts, but proposing to invest even more in NIH in FY18—the House by \$1 billion and Senate by \$2 billion.

Representing a strong cross-section of the nation’s business community, we respectfully urge you to work together in bipartisan fashion and reach a budget agreement to raise spending caps and move forward with FY18 appropriations, much of which has already been agreed upon. Doing so is the only way to continue critical investment in scientific research, and we ask that you provide robust funding, above inflation, for these critical accounts for fiscal year 2018. Our nation’s leadership in innovation stands in the balance.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Business for Federal Research Funding

cc: Members of the House and Senate Budget Committees
 Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees
 Business for Federal Research Funding Congressional Delegation

COALITION MEMBERS

BUSINESS FOR FEDERAL
RESEARCH FUNDING



MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (AL)
LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CA)
SAN DIEGO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CA)
SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CA)
PASADENA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CA)
SILICON VALLEY LEADERSHIP GROUP (CA)
AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CO)
COLORADO BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE (CO)
DENVER METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CO)
SOUTH DENVER METRO CHAMBER (CO)
BOULDER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CO)
FORT COLLINS AREAS CHAMBER (CO)
THE BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL (CT)
THE BUSINESS COUNCIL OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY (CT)
GAINESVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (FL)
GREATER MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (FL)
GREATER TAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (FL)
ATHENS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GA)
GEORGIA CHAMBER (GA)
DEKALB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GA)
METRO ATLANTA CHAMBER (GA)
GREATER DES MOINES PARTNERSHIP (IA)
IOWA CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IA)
CHICAGOLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IL)
NAPERVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IL)
INDY CHAMBER (IN)
GREATER TOPEKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (KS)
LAWRENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (KS)
MANHATTAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (KS)
GREATER BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MA)
CAMBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MA)
WORCESTER REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MA)
NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL (MA, RI, CT, VT, NH, ME)
MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MD)
ANN ARBOR/YPSILANTI REGIONAL CHAMBER (MI)
MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MN)
GREATER KANSAS CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (MO)
ST. LOUIS REGIONAL CHAMBER (MO, IL)
CARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
CHARLOTTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
CARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)

CHAPEL HILL-CARRBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
FAYETTEVILLE REGIONAL CHAMBER (NC)
GREATER DURHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
GREATER RALEIGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
GREATER WINSTON-SALEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
MORRISVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NC)
GREATER OMAHA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NE)
MIDJERSEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NJ)
PRINCETON REGIONAL CHAMBER (NJ)
BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NY)
CAPITAL REGION CHAMBER (NY)
MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NY)
TOMPKINS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NY)
COLUMBUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (OH)
DAYTON DEVELOPMENT COALITION (OH)
GREATER CLEVELAND PARTNERSHIP (OH)
GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER (OK)
EUGENE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (OR)
PORTLAND BUSINESS ALLIANCE (OR)
SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (OR)
CHAMBER OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY OF CENTRE COUNTY (PA)
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA (PA, NJ, DE)
GREATER PITTSBURGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (PA)
CEO COUNCIL FOR GROWTH (PA, NJ, DE)
GREATER PROVIDENCE CHAMBER (RI)
AUSTIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (TX)
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS (TX)
LUBBOCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (TX)
SALT LAKE CHAMBER (UT)
DULLES REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (VA)
CHARLOTTESVILLE REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (VA)
GREATER RICHMOND CHAMBER (VA)
NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (VA)
SEATTLE METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (WA)
GREATER MADISON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (WI)