May 23, 2016

The Coalition for National Security Research

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Members Lowey and Visclosky,

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) writes to thank you for your work to provide some additional resources for the Defense Science and Technology (S&T) program. CNSR—a broad-based coalition of research universities and institutes, scientific and professional associations, and industry—appreciates the House Appropriations Committee’s efforts to increase DoD S&T relative to the President’s request and just above the FY 2016 enacted levels, but we are concerned about the 8% reduction in basic scientific research in the FY 2017 Defense Appropriations bill.

While it is clear that our coalition’s FY 2017 request of $13.4 billion for S&T and $2.5 billion for 6.1 basic research is ambitious given the current fiscal constraints, we appreciate the resources provided to advance technologies more rapidly in support of the Third Offset strategy. However, we feel strongly that this should not be done at the expense of basic research. Sustained investment in fundamental research provides the seed corn that ensures our technological edge over our adversaries for many years to come.

As the legislative process continues, we strongly urge you to work to provide additional funds for the 6.1 basic research accounts. In particular, we note that the Navy 6.1 allocation is 19% below the FY 2016 enacted level. The lack of Navy basic research investment will impact the Office of Naval Research, which funds such outstanding programs as the Naval University Research Initiatives, including the Multi-disciplinary University Research Initiative program. We commend the Committee for continuing to provide DARPA with the resources needed to carry out critically important high risk, high reward research. Finally, we are pleased to see a significant increase to the Defense Health research and development portfolio relative to the President’s budget request.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure our members provide the research and workforce pipeline to the Department that secures America’s military excellence and preeminence.

Sincerely,
**CNSR Members**

American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Chemical Society
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Psychological Association
American Society for Engineering Education
Arizona State University
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
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
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
The Johns Hopkins University
Louisiana State University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Michigan State University
New Mexico State University
Northern Illinois University
Ohio State University
Optical Society of America
Oregon State University
Oregon Health and Sciences University
Pace University
Penn State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Semiconductor Industry Association
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
SRI International
The State University of New York
Texas A&M University
University of Arizona
University of California System
University of California – Irvine
University of California – Los Angeles
University of California – San Diego
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado
University of Houston
University of Maryland at College Park
University of Michigan
University of Missouri System
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University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
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West Virginia University
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