

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](mailto: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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