The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) is a broad-based alliance of industry, academia, scientific and professional organizations, and non-profits committed to advocating for a strong Defense Science and Technology enterprise.

February 15, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  The Honorable Charles Schumer  The Honorable Mitch McConnell  The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Director  Minority Leader  Majority Leader  Speaker of the House
Office of Management and Budget  United States Senate  United States Senate  Washington, DC 20510
Washington, DC 20503

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), of which the undersigned organizations are members, respectfully urges the White House and Congressional leadership to reach a bipartisan budget agreement to raise the discretionary budget caps.

At a time when our military’s unmatched technological superiority is being challenged by the investment of competing global powers, including China,¹ we cannot allow the Budget Control Act (BCA) caps to restrict funding for scientific research and technological development. To ensure U.S. military preeminence in the world and successfully execute the National Defense Strategy, we must be able to invest in cutting edge capabilities.

While we support raising both the defense and nondefense discretionary budget caps, we are greatly concerned about the harmful impact on the Defense Science & Technology (S&T) program that would result from outsized reductions in the defense budget cap in fiscal years (FY) 2020 and 2021. Under BCA, the defense base budget cap is slated to decline from its FY 2019 level by $71 billion in FY 2020 and by $56 billion in FY 2021. Reductions of this magnitude would result in substantially fewer resources for the Defense S&T program, which would limit discoveries that ultimately provide the warfighter with the technical capabilities to defeat 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


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true. Our technical supremacy is largely the outcome of investments in the Defense S&T program including the defense basic research programs, as well as civilian science agency programs. Specifically, current military capabilities such as unmanned systems, laser technologies, counter-stealth technology, underwater weapons systems, and biological detection capabilities all stem from the Defense S&T program. Looking ahead, 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 negotiate 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,

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)  Michigan State University
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  Michigan Technological University
American Mathematical Society (AMS)  New Mexico State University
American Psychological Association (APA)  Northeastern University
American Society for Engineering Education  Northern Illinois University
Arizona State University  Northwestern University
ASME  Oak Ridge Associated Universities
Association of American Universities (AAU)  Ohio State University
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)  Oregon Health and Sciences University
Battelle  Oregon State University
Boston University  Pace University
Brown University  Penn State University
California Institute of Technology  Princeton University
Carnegie Mellon University  Purdue University
Columbia University  Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Computing Research Association  Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Cornell University  Semiconductor Industry Association
David Sarnoff Research Center  Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Duke University  SRI International
Energetics, Inc.  Temple University
Federation of Materials Societies  Texas A&M University
Florida International University  The Catholic University of America
Florida State University  The George Washington University
George Mason University  The Johns Hopkins University
Georgia Institute of Technology  The State University of New York
Harvard University  University of Arizona
IEEE-USA  University of California System
Indiana University  University of California, Davis
Lehigh University  University of California, Irvine
Louisiana State University  University of California, Los Angeles
Louisiana Tech University  University of California, Riverside
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  University of California, San Diego
Materials Research Society  University of Central Florida
Michigan State University  University of Cincinnati
Michigan Technological University  University of Colorado Boulder
New Mexico State University  University of California, Davis
Northeastern University  University of California, Irvine
Northern Illinois University  University of California, Los Angeles
Northwestern University  University of California, Riverside
Oak Ridge Associated Universities  University of California, San Diego
Ohio State University  University of Central Florida
Oregon Health and Sciences University  University of Cincinnati
Oregon State University  University of Colorado Boulder
Pace University  University of Colorado Boulder
Penn State University  University of Denver
Princeton University  University of Denver
Purdue University  University of Denver
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  University of Denver
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  University of Denver
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  University of Denver
Semiconductor Industry Association  University of Denver
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  University of Denver
SRI International  University of Denver
Temple University  University of Denver
Texas A&M University  University of Denver
The Catholic University of America  University of Denver
The George Washington University  University of Denver
The Johns Hopkins University  University of Denver
The State University of New York  University of Denver
University of Arizona  University of Denver
University of California System  University of Denver
University of California, Davis  University of Denver
University of California, Irvine  University of Denver
University of California, Los Angeles  University of Denver
University of California, Riverside  University of Denver
University of California, San Diego  University of Denver
University of Central Florida  University of Denver
University of Cincinnati  University of Denver
University of Colorado Boulder  University of Denver

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