

APLU Supports House Appropriations Committee FY2015 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill

May 23, 2014

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) offers its support for the FY2015 Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations bill, as passed by the House Appropriations Committee. We applaud the hard work of Subcommittee Chairman Frank Wolf and Ranking Member Chaka Fattah and their respective staff who worked in a bipartisan fashion to craft this important legislation.

Recent budget cuts, including sequestration and the Budget Control Act of 2011, have forced reductions in scientific research that threaten to grow our nation's innovation deficit. This situation is compounded by other countries, such as China, Australia, and Singapore continuing to dramatically increase their research budgets. Our nation's economic strength depends on strong investments in basic research, which lead to innovation and job creation. Given the extraordinary limits imposed by the budget caps, the subcommittee did a commendable job overall with this bill.

The measure funds the National Science Foundation (NSF) at a level that will allow our country to invest in merit-based research across scientific disciplines. In addition, the funding levels provided for the science programs at NASA will give scientists the support they need to answer fundamental questions regarding the universe. Ultimately, though perhaps not for several years, many of these findings will be key to the development of new products, industries, jobs, and other breakthroughs that will help keep the U.S. secure and stable into the future.

Unfortunately, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) did not receive the levels of funding APLU urged the committee to provide. We will seek opportunities to work with members in conference to address those concerns.

APLU strongly opposes the potential addition of harmful amendments that would make cuts to valuable research funding or target specific areas of research and merit-based research grants. We encourage members of the House of Representatives to swiftly approve this legislation as passed by the House Appropriations Committee.