

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
 San Diego Chamber of Commerce  
 San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
 Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
 Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
 Colorado Business Roundtable  
 Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce  
 South Denver Metro Chamber  
 Boulder Chamber of Commerce  
 Fort Collins Areas Chamber  
 The Bridgeport Regional Business Council  
 The Business Council of Fairfield County  
 Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce  
 Athens Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Georgia Chamber  
 Metro Atlanta Chamber  
 Greater Des Moines Partnership  
 Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce  
 Indy Chamber  
 Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce  
 Lawrence Chamber of Commerce  
 Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce  
 Cambridge Chamber of Commerce  
 Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 New England Council  
 Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber  
 Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce  
 St. Louis Regional Chamber  
 Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Cary Chamber of Commerce  
 Charlotte Chamber of Commerce  
 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce  
 Fayetteville Regional Chamber  
 Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce  
 Morrisville Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce  
 MID Jersey Chamber of Commerce  
 Capital Region Chamber  
 Manhattan Chamber of Commerce  
 Columbus Chamber of Commerce  
 Dayton Development Coalition  
 Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
 Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Portland Business Alliance  
 Springfield Chamber of Commerce  
 Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County  
 The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia  
 CEO Council for Growth  
 Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Providence Chamber  
 Austin Chamber of Commerce  
 Texas Association of Business  
 Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 Lubbock Chamber of Commerce  
 Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Richmond Chamber  
 Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
 Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce



March 31, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
 Chairman  
 House Committee on Appropriations  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
 Chairman  
 Senate Committee on Appropriations  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
 Ranking Member  
 House committee on Appropriations  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
 Vice Chairman  
 Senate Committee on Appropriations  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran, Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairmen Leahy and Lowey:

On behalf of Business for Federal Research Funding, a broad-based coalition of more than 65 chambers of commerce from across the country, we are writing to urge you to support critical research accounts that are subject to widespread cuts in the Administration's 2018 budget request, including cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). We ask that your committees finalize the fiscal year (FY) 2017 omnibus while incorporating your committee's priorities, which were voted on in the spring of 2016. Furthermore, we ask you to provide robust funding to research accounts as you craft the House and Senate Appropriations bills for FY 2018.

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.

Specifically, the coalition is primarily focused on increasing research funds for NIH, the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, and Homeland Security.

Funding levels included in the Administration's budget request, particularly the proposed \$5.8 billion cut to NIH, and the \$1.7 billion cut to the Department of Energy, would be devastating to innovation, jobs, and the economy. According to the latest report released this week from 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, and supports more than \$1 billion in economic activity in 19 other states. Slashing these funds so dramatically would not just impact the gains this country has made in medical research and advancements, but it would result in real job loss and reduce the economic benefits created by this government investment.

The United States needs to remain competitive with countries like China and Germany in technology and research & development. Our leaders should not be focused on how much to cut from these budgets—rather, the focus should be on how much we should be investing in research 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 approving appropriations bills in FY17 which included increases in funding for various research accounts, particularly NIH funding. Because we are still operating under a short-term 2017 Continuing Resolution, we still need your committees to finalize your appropriated spending levels in the coming omnibus. It is our strong hope that the intent to invest in these accounts that was so clearly exhibited last year during the appropriations process and in the passage of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act is followed through as you craft your spending plans for FY18.

The time to act is now. Representing a strong cross-section of the nation's business community, we respectfully urge you to provide robust funding, above inflation for these critical research accounts in the FY18 appropriations bills. 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: The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Richard Durbin, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Michael Simpson, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development & Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations  
Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committee  
Business for Federal Research Funding Congressional Delegation