

Coalition for
National Security Research

June 13, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of the Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR), a broad-based coalition of research universities and institutes, scientific and professional associations, and industry, we write to thank you for your overall support for the Defense Science and Technology (S&T) program in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

Given current fiscal constraints, we applaud the Committee for providing a 2.8 percent increase over the FY 16 enacted funding level for the overall Defense S&T program. While we appreciate the Committee partially restoring the cuts made in the Administration's request for 6.1 basic research, we note with significant concern that the proposed funding level for 6.1 is still below the FY 16 enacted level. In particular, we are concerned to see a proposed 16-percent cut to Navy 6.1 basic research as compared to FY 16. As you likely know, the Navy is the largest defense agency sponsor of university scientific research.

We commend the Committee for its leadership in providing additional support for 6.2 applied research and 6.3 advanced technology development especially for materials research, cybersecurity and UAS. In addition, your support of DARPA and the Defense Health program will enable continued efforts by our members to address such challenges that impact our wounded warriors, such as infectious diseases, nerve regeneration, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and hearing and vision loss.

As the FY 17 appropriations process progresses, we look forward to working with you to secure robust investments in Defense S&T, especially in basic research. We also stand ready to partner with DOD to provide research and the future workforce to help realize our military's future capabilities. As the world continues to become more volatile and dangerous, defense research funding ensures that our best and brightest are actively engaged now and in the future to provide America's military technical superiority.

Sincerely,

Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)

MISSION

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) is a broad-based alliance of industry, research universities and institutes, and scientific and professional organizations committed to advocating for a strong Defense Science & Technology (S&T) enterprise, with particular emphasis on basic (6.1) and applied (6.2) defense research. Whether it is developing weapons systems, cybersecurity capabilities, protecting the warfighter, or developing technologies used to heal the wounded, the Defense S&T program serves as the foundation upon which U.S. military technical superiority is built. CNSR's advocacy with Congress and the Administration supports long-term, robust funding for basic and applied research, as well as Department of Defense-funded educational programs that cultivate a new generation of talented engineers and scientists.

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
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Arizona State University
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
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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
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New Mexico State University
Northern Illinois University
Ohio State University
Optical Society of America
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Penn State University
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Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
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