

July 11, 2017

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Chairwoman Granger, and Ranking Members Lowey and Visclosky,

On behalf of the Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR), a broad-based coalition of the nation's top universities, research institutes, scientific and professional associations, and non-profits, we write to thank you for your efforts to support the Defense Science and Technology (S&T) program in the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill, 2018. We commend the committee for rejecting most of the Administration's proposed reductions in Defense S&T but are concerned that some funding levels are below FY 2016 and FY 2017 enacted.

We commend the committee for its support of defense basic research. As you know, the defense basic research programs enable discoveries that have led to paradigm shifts in the military's technical capabilities. While it is important to address near-term threats, we should not do so at the expense of long-term basic research that will provide our men and women in uniform with the future technical capabilities to ensure continued military dominance over our adversaries. Overall funding for defense basic research in the bill is slightly above FY 2017 enacted and does not concur with the Administration's request to reduce funding to levels below FY 2015 enacted. We appreciate the increases above the budget request for the Army Research Laboratory's Open Campus Initiative, and the Navy and Air Force University Research Initiatives. We look forward to working with you to achieve a 4 percent increase in basic research as is recommended in [*Innovation: An American Imperative*](#), a statement signed by the CEOs of Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Microsoft, and endorsed by over 500 other leading organizations from industry, research universities, and science and engineering organizations.

In addition, we appreciate the committee's support for several of our applied research priority program elements (PE). Specifically, the support provided above the request for the Army's Advanced Weapons Technology PE, Navy Ocean Warfighting Environmental Applied Research PE, and Air Force Materials PE. These PEs enable us to work with the Department to transform fundamental scientific research into new military technologies. The private sector is unable to assume the risk of applying fundamental knowledge to field the military technologies of

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

tomorrow so support for applied research remains critical to the success of the defense innovation pipeline.

Finally, the coalition commends the committee for supporting DARPA, medical research and the Defense-Wide Manufacturing Science and Technology Program PE, which supports the Manufacturing USA Network. DARPA is critical to carrying out the important high risk, high reward research that can lead to transformative discoveries and ultimately new capabilities. With an all-volunteer force, it is vital the Department contribute to curing diseases. The Manufacturing USA Network is enabling the Department to leverage its partnerships with industry to enable innovation throughout the entire manufacturing ecosystem, ensuring the U.S. is able to domestically manufacture the world's most respected and capable weapon systems such as the F-35 fighter jet, the M1-A2 tank, and the Ohio Class submarine.

Going forward, we look forward to working with you further support the defense basic research PEs but also overall Defense S&T. We commend the committee for funding Defense S&T above the budget request but the funding level in the bill is below FY 2017 enacted. The 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review Report, Council on Competitiveness and National Academy of Sciences all called for the Defense S&T budget to comprise at least 3 percent of the total Department's budget. Given the current budgetary environment, it is extremely difficult to reach that level but we encourage you to consider these recommendations in the future. Also, please know that we will continue to advocate to end the Budget Control Act caps with the goal of providing for the opportunity to address readiness and other issues while ensuring we are appropriately investing in the science and technology needed to ensure we have the most effective fighting force in the world.

Again, thank you for your efforts to support Defense S&T. As the appropriations process moves forward, please do not hesitate to contact us at cnsr.dodresearch@gmail.com if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

John Latini
Chairman, Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)