



February 15, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
Washington, DC 20515

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,<sup>1</sup> 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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<sup>1</sup> <https://armedservices.house.gov/2018/4/promoting-dod-s-culture-of-innovation>

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](mailto:cnsr.dodresearch@gmail.com) if we can be any assistance.

Sincerely,

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Mathematical Society (AMS)  
American Psychological Association (APA)  
American Society for Engineering Education  
Arizona State University  
ASME  
Association of American Universities (AAU)  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)  
Battelle  
Boston University  
Brown University  
California Institute of Technology  
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  
Florida State University  
George Mason University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Harvard University  
IEEE-USA  
Indiana University  
Lehigh University  
Louisiana State University  
Louisiana Tech University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Materials Research Society

Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University  
New Mexico State University  
Northeastern University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University  
Oak Ridge Associated Universities  
Ohio State University  
Oregon Health and Sciences University  
Oregon State University  
Pace University  
Penn State University  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
Semiconductor Industry Association  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
SRI International  
Temple University  
Texas A&M University  
The Catholic University of America  
The George Washington University  
The Johns Hopkins University  
The State University of New York  
University of Arizona  
University of California System  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, Riverside  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Central Florida  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Colorado Boulder

University of Delaware  
University of Florida  
University of Houston  
University of Illinois System  
University of Iowa  
University of Kansas  
University of Maryland at College Park  
University of Michigan  
University of Missouri System  
University of Nebraska  
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina System  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rhode Island  
University of Rochester  
University of South Florida  
University of Southern California  
University of Tennessee  
University of Texas System  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Washington State University  
West Virginia University  
William & Mary  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Yale University