February 15, 2019

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

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

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

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy 
Minority Leader 
United States 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, 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 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 if we can be any assistance.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
American Chemical Society (ACS)
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