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AAAS Statement on U.S. Defense Department Disbanding Science and Engineering Advisory Group JASON

“It’s alarming that the Department of Defense has canceled its contract with the science and engineering advisory group JASON, as revealed at an April 9 congressional hearing. JASON is a valuable source of science advice to the U.S. government and our nation at a time of rapidly advancing technologies, global competition and national security threats. It is shortsighted to disband a critical tool for science advice on issues that have ranged from ballistic missile defense to cybersecurity. The JASON advisory group is multidisciplinary, highly sophisticated, very dedicated and a bargain. It has distinguished itself over many years and provided understanding of technical issues that was not available otherwise. The Pentagon has excelled at developing a long-term vision as a key component of strategic planning, and it must nurture proven science advisory mechanisms that contribute to that effort.”

— Rush Holt, chief executive officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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