CASE Talking Points

The goal of these meetings is to introduce yourself to the Congressman and his/her staff, discuss your research and its impact locally and nationally, and share with them your thoughts on the importance of federal support for R&D and education. Below are some suggested talking points.

1. **Tell your story**

   - Tie your work and research into how it's important to the local state or district, or the impact on our health, economy, etc. – and connect that to why the federal government should continue its support.

2. **Support Federal Funding for R&D in the FY18 and FY19 Budget**

   - Federal funding for scientific research is a crucial investment in building a more competitive 21st century workforce. Please support federal R&D in the budget.
   - Federal R&D supports advanced training for students (like me) many of whom go on to drive innovations in the private sector and enhance our economic competitiveness.
   - New and innovative businesses and industries demand qualified STEM workers, promoting educational attainment and STEM training
   - Federal funding for R&D has been on a downward trend for the past decade and has not exceeded 5 percent of the total federal budget since 1990. Funding for R&D in FY 2017 accounted for just 3.5 percent of the total federal budget, an historic low.
   - The US has fallen to 10th place in R&D investments as a percent of GDP and is failing to keep pace with competitor's investments in R&D.

3. **R&D Supports US Growth**

   - The U.S. innovation ecosystem – comprised of our world class universities, national labs, the federal government, private industry and STEM workforce – is the greatest economic growth and job creation engine the world has ever seen.
   - More than half of U.S. economic growth since the end of WWII is due to technological innovation in STEM industries, which has its roots in fundamental scientific research.
   - Employment in STEM occupations grew by 10.5 percent, or 817,260 jobs, between May 2009 and May 2015, compared with 5.2 percent net growth in non-STEM occupations