



May 9, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
233 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, and Democratic Leaders Pelosi and Schumer:

On behalf of the 120,000 members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), I write to thank the Congress for prioritizing funding for research and development as you worked to prevent a government shutdown and finalize appropriations for fiscal year 2017. Our nation's research enterprise is among the most powerful engines for American prosperity, and investment in U.S. research agencies is critical to encouraging innovation and economic growth.

A consistent area of bipartisan agreement for 70 years has been the importance of the federal government's role in supporting research and innovation. We are pleased to see continued support for the research budgets at NIH, DOE, DOD, USDA, NASA, and NOAA in the FY 2017 omnibus bill, even as other federal agency budgets remain flat or face decreases. In early April, we led more than 280 business, science and engineering, medical and health, and higher education organizations in urging Congress to provide robust investments in scientific research. (See [joint letter](#) sent to Congressional leaders.)

We understand the significant budgetary constraints you face and greatly appreciate the Congress's continued strong bipartisan support for research and innovation. We stand ready to work with you going forward to further strengthen our national commitment to all research and development in FY 2018 and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rush Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rush D. Holt
Chief Executive Officer, AAAS
Executive Publisher, *Science* Family of Journals

cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations