



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2015

Contact: Lauren Pulte
202-429-6875
lpulte@gga.com

The Science Coalition Comments on the State of the Union Address

Amanda Arnold, 2015 president of The Science Coalition, made the following statement following President Barack Obama's 2015 State of the Union address:

The Science Coalition fully agrees that “21st century businesses will rely on American science, technology, research and development.” Federally funded basic scientific research has driven much of America’s economic growth since World War II, creating new technologies, new [companies](#) and entire new industries, along with countless jobs. It also has improved the quality of life for all Americans and helped build a highly skilled workforce. The question now is whether the United States will make the investments necessary to support a robust research enterprise well into the 21st century.

Federal funding for research and development has been on a dangerous downward trend for the past [decade](#). In 2013, sequestration caused the largest [decrease](#) in federal research spending in 40 years. While partially eased in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, sequestration looms large in 2016 and beyond, and mandatory budget caps will continue to limit available funding. These cuts will have a devastating impact on the R&D that is essential to America’s ability to innovate, compete and create new jobs.

Basic scientific research enjoys [bipartisan](#) support. We urge Congress to look beyond the short-term and think about the [future](#). Whether the future they envision involves improvements in health, security, defense, energy or the environment, it all begins with funding a broad base of research. If America is to realize that future, then investment in research must be made a higher national priority today.

###

The Science Coalition is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization of the nation’s leading public and private research universities. It is dedicated to sustaining strong federal funding of basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, spur innovation and drive America’s global competitiveness. Learn more at www.sciencecoalition.org.

For examples of companies created as a result of federally funded university research, visit: www.sciencecoalition.org/successstories

To learn what well-funded scientific research might mean for the future, visit: www.science2034.org.