November 29, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi and Reid:

On behalf of The Science Coalition, we are writing to express our deep concern about passage of a second short-term continuing resolution in December and urge Congress to instead complete the FY2017 appropriations process this year. The Science Coalition is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization of 60 of the nation’s leading public and private research universities dedicated to sustaining the federal government’s investment in basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, spur innovation and drive America’s global competitiveness.

Continuing resolutions are particularly harmful for research. Budget uncertainty puts ongoing research projects in jeopardy and limits the ability of federal agencies to fund new projects. Given all the work done this year to finalize individual appropriations bills, it is disappointing that a string of continuing resolutions might be the final outcome. Moreover, these bills contained some important proposed increases for science agencies including the National Institutes of Health, NASA’s science program, the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, ARPA-E and the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

Federally funded scientific research is critical to America’s ability to innovate, compete and create jobs. We strongly urge Congress to complete the FY2017 appropriations process and provide the proposed increases for America’s science enterprise.

Sincerely,

Jack Cline  
University of Kansas  
Science Coalition President

Glynda Becker  
Washington State University  
Science Coalition Vice President

Alexandra Hermann  
Rutgers University  
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Dartmouth College
Emory University
Florida State University
Harvard University
Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
The Ohio State University
Pace University
Penn State University
Princeton University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
The Rockefeller University
Rutgers University
Stanford University
State University of New York
Stony Brook University
Texas A&M University
University at Buffalo
University of Arizona

University of California
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Mississippi
University of Nebraska
University of New Hampshire
University of New Mexico
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of South Florida
University of Texas at Austin
University of Utah
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Washington State University
Wayne State University
West Virginia University
Yale University