



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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AAU STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT'S FY15 BUDGET

Following is a statement by the Association of American Universities on the President's FY15 budget, released earlier today.

The President's FY15 budget does disappointingly little to close the nation's innovation deficit. When it comes to research, its modest spending increases in a few key research agencies are not sufficient to put this nation on an investment path that can ensure we remain the world's innovation leader. Indeed, basic research funding declines in this budget.

The unrealistic caps on discretionary spending have made the Administration's job extremely difficult, and we appreciate the effort to fund additional research through a separate initiative, but we strongly believe research investments should receive greater priority under the caps.

We are especially disappointed that the proposed funding of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) still does not achieve the pre-sequestration FY12 level of funding and continues the after-inflation decline of support for NIH that we have seen since 2003. We are also disappointed that the Defense budget contains a 6.9-percent cut in basic research. For this nation's fighting men and women to remain the world's best equipped, most technically advanced force, we need to sustain the investment in Defense basic research.

This Administration has provided great leadership in pursuit of needed investments in scientific research. We hope that we can depend on its support as we work with Congress to increase the investments from the levels proposed in this budget.

The Administration's proposed investments in student financial aid and other higher education programs are far more suited to the challenges our nation faces. The budget would continue to make it possible for more students to attend college regardless of their family incomes through direct spending on financial aid as well as targeted tax measures. We look forward to working with the Administration to see these and other proposed investments adopted by Congress.

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The Association of American Universities is a nonprofit association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities. Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

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