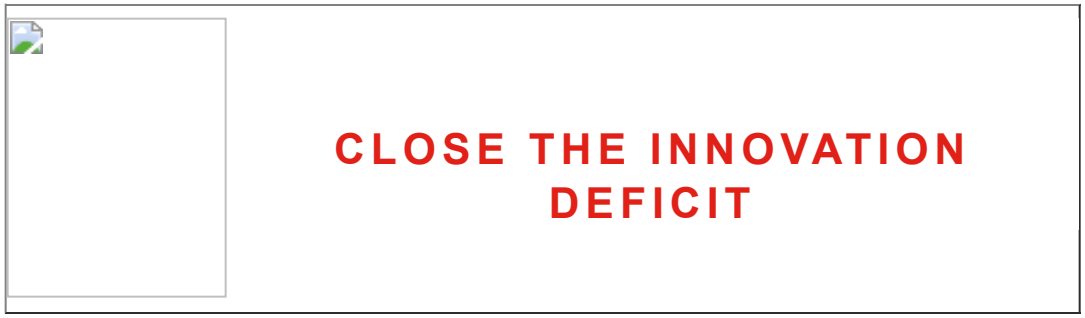
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Monday, November 17, 2014

APLU-CGA Update



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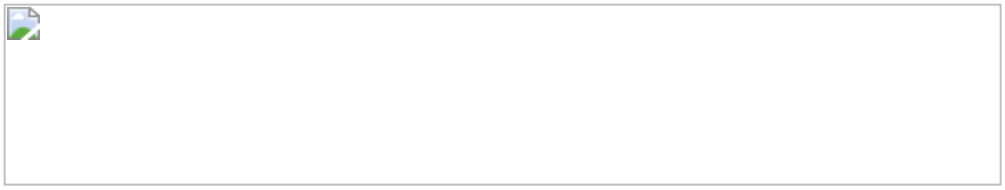
Close the Innovation Deficit **November 12, 2014**



*Over 130 national business, higher education, scientific, patient, and other organizations have joined to urge Members of Congress to help close America's **Innovation Deficit** by passing an omnibus FY2015 appropriations bill this year that includes increased investments in scientific research and higher education.*

Dear Member of Congress:

The 133 undersigned national business, higher education, scientific, patient, and other organizations write to strongly urge you to pass an omnibus FY2015 appropriations bill this year that includes increased investments in scientific research and higher education needed to help close our nation's innovation deficit.

Members of the Senate and House from both political parties have highlighted the need to address the innovation deficit. Congress has already taken some preliminary steps in this direction. In most instances, individual appropriations bills considered by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees would provide for increased investments in scientific research at the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, NASA, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the Department of Defense's science and technology programs, and other federal research agencies. However, none of this matters if Congress makes FY2015 appropriations through a continuing resolution.

As many of us noted in our **testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee** earlier this year, the innovation deficit is the widening gap between the actual level of federal government funding for research and higher education and what the investment needs to be if the United States is to remain the world's innovation leader. As the global innovation leader, we produce more discoveries and patents, and more technological and health advances, than any other nation. Economists have made very clear that these science-and engineering-driven advances have fueled most of our nation's economic growth in the decades since World War II. Yet today, our leadership faces a serious challenge from other nations that are rapidly increasing their investments in these critical areas while our own spending lags.

Close the Innovation Deficit

The fact that other nations are building up their research and innovation capabilities is not a bad thing. The world benefits from stronger research and education in other countries as well as our own. What should concern us is that those other nations are doing this while the United States is essentially standing still. This poses a serious challenge to our position as the world's innovation leader, and the economic and national security benefits that flow from it. Global leadership is a race, and we will lose by standing still. Bill Green, former CEO of Accenture, perhaps said it best in 2012: "All these other countries-India, China, Russia, you name it-they aspire to be like us because they realize how we got where we got. It's because of the national research infrastructure and ecosystem we have. They aspire to that and they're going to have that. But we've got to be gone when they get there." As modern Americans, we are accustomed to the economic, health, and national security benefits that emanate from our position as the global innovation leader - and we want our children, and their children, to enjoy them as well. If we lose our global leadership, we will lose the valuable collateral that comes with it, and those losses will occur quickly.

Our nation cannot compete effectively or close its innovation deficit by funding science and higher education through continuing resolutions. Past continuing resolutions have disrupted the scientific grants process, suspended and impaired ongoing research projects, and caused uncertainty to our nation's scientific and innovation enterprise. Other nations are enacting long-term strategic plans and making the necessary investments to out-compete the United States. Meanwhile, our nation is losing ground by insufficiently investing in scientific research and education and shackling itself with visionless continuing resolutions.

Your leadership is needed to make scientific research and higher education a priority in final FY15 omnibus appropriations legislation, and to take real steps this year toward closing the innovation deficit.

SIGNING ORGANIZATIONS

Academic Pediatric Association -

Academy of Radiology Research -

Aerospace Industries Association - Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine - Alzheimer's Association - American Academy of Neurology - American Anthropological Association - American Association for Dental Research - American Association for the Advancement of Science - American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases - American Association for Thoracic Surgery - American Association of Anatomists - American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy - American Astronomical Society - American Brain Coalition - American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network - American Chemical Society - American College of Gastroenterology -

American Council on Education - American Educational Research Association - American Gastroenterological Association - American Heart Association - American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering - American Institute of Biological Sciences - American Mathematical Society - American Pancreatic Association - American Pediatric Society - American Physical Society - American Physiological Society - American Political Science Association - American Sociological Association - American Society for Bioethics and Humanities - American Society for Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics - American Society for Engineering Education - American Society for Microbiology - American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics - American Society of Agronomy - American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy - American Society of Hematology - American Society of Mechanical Engineers - American Society of Plant Biologists - American Statistical Association - American Surgical Association - Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization - Association for Academic Surgery - Association for Surgical Education - Association for Women in Mathematics - Association of Academic Physiatrists - Association of American Geographers - Association of American Medical Colleges - Association of American Universities - Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges - Association of Independent Research Institutes - Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs - Association of Population Centers - Association of Public and Land-grant Universities - Association of Research Libraries - Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy - Bay Area Council - Biophysical Society - Brain Injury Association of America - Business-Higher Education Forum - Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research - Coalition for the Life Sciences - Coalition for National Science Funding - Coalition for National Security Research - Computing Research Association - Consortium for Ocean Leadership - Consortium of Social Science Associations - Cooley's Anemia Foundation - Council of Graduate Schools - Council on Competitiveness - Council on Undergraduate Research - Crop Science Society of America - Deadliest Cancers Coalition - Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer - Digestive Disease National Coalition - Ecological Society of America - Energy Sciences Coalition - Entomological Society of America - Esophageal Cancer Action Network - Everylife Foundation for Rare Diseases - Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology - Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences - Hepatitis B Foundation - Hepatitis Foundation International - Human Factors and Ergonomics Society - IEEE-USA - Industrial Research Institute - Infectious Diseases Society of America - Lung Cancer Alliance - Lupus Research Institute - Materials Research Society - Mathematical Association of America - Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation - National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research - National Association of Marine Laboratories - National Brain Tumor Society - National Certification Council for Activity Professionals - National Ground Water Association - National Ovarian Cancer Coalition - National

Pancreas Foundation - Natural Science Collections Alliance - Older Women's League - Ovarian Cancer National Alliance - Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - Pink Concussions, Inc. - Population Association of America - Research!America - Semiconductor Industry Association - Semiconductor Research Corporation - Silicon Valley Leadership Group - Society for Academic Emergency Medicine - Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics - Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology -

Society for Neuroscience - Society for Pediatric Research - Society of General Internal Medicine - Society of Surgical Chairs - Society of University Urologists - Society of Urology Chairpersons and Program Directors - Soil Science Society of America - Southeastern Universities Research Association - Stand With Science - Task Force on American Innovation - The Geological Society of America - The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology - The Endocrine Society - The Optical Society - The Science Coalition - Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance - United for Medical Research - University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

TWEET #INNOVATIONDEFICIT

SUMMARY

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