



# ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

May 27, 2004

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University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Yale University

The Honorable Member's Name  
Defense Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-149 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Name:

We, the members of the Executive Committee of the Association of American Universities, write to urge the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and its members to provide adequate funding to the important basic and applied research programs supported by the Department of Defense (DoD).

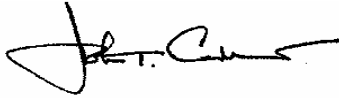
Past research investments made by DoD have produced the best-equipped, best-protected, and best-prepared fighting force in the world. A few examples of technologies currently being used by the military that are available because of past research investments include: radar, the global positioning system (GPS), laser targeting systems, the Internet, lightweight body armor, chemical and bio-sensors, and unmanned aerial vehicles. Continued investments in DoD research, such as those currently being made in nanotechnology, detection of explosive devices, and self-healing wound technologies, will ensure that tomorrow's warfighter has the technologies to face new dangers.

Universities have traditionally played an important role in conducting and carrying out defense research. DoD is the third largest federal sponsor of university-based research after the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. More than 300 universities and colleges conduct DoD-funded research. DoD-funded research to universities is concentrated in fields where advances are most likely to contribute to national defense. DoD accounts for 68 percent of federal funding for university electrical engineering, 32 percent for computer science, and 50 percent for metallurgy and materials engineering. Through its support of research and graduate fellowships, DoD is helping universities train the next generation of scientists and engineers who will work in defense labs and industry. This is especially important as the nation continues to face workforce shortages in these areas.

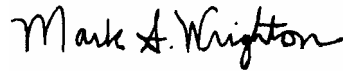
We understand that the pressures on your subcommittee are particularly difficult this year and we realize that taking care of the immediate needs of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan must be your foremost priority. At the same time, however, we urge you to not handicap tomorrow's warfighters by undercutting research investments today. Please do everything possible to

provide sufficient funding for the basic and applied research behind the best fighting force in the world.


Sincerely,



John T. Casteen, III  
Chair, AAU  
President  
University of Virginia



Mark S. Wrighton  
Vice Chair, AAU  
Chancellor  
Washington University in St. Louis



Henry S. Bienen  
President  
Northwestern University



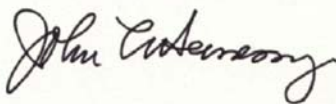
Nancy Cantor  
President  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



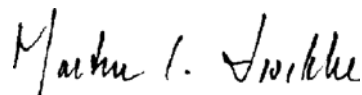
David B. Frohnmayer  
President  
University of Oregon



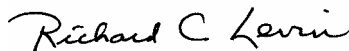
Malcolm Gillis  
President  
Rice University



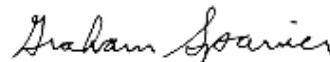
John L. Hennessy  
President  
Stanford University



Martin C. Jischke  
President  
Purdue University



Richard C. Levin  
President  
Yale University



Graham B. Spanier  
President  
The Pennsylvania State University

Handwritten signature of Shirley M. Tilghman in blue ink.

Shirley M. Tilghman  
President  
Princeton University

Handwritten signature of Nils Hasselmo in black ink.

Nils Hasselmo  
President  
Association of American Universities