

Duke University
Durham
North Carolina 27708-0001

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOX 90001

TELEPHONE (919) 684-2424
FACSIMILE (919) 684-3050

April 29, 2011

The Honorable David Price
United States House of Representatives
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear David:

As Congress turns its attention to the Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations process, I write to outline Duke University's federal funding priorities for the upcoming budget cycle. The country's fiscal situation is at a tenuous crossroads, and one cannot begin any discussion about the budget without first acknowledging the debt crisis. Putting the nation on a sustainable path forward will require sacrifice and smart choices about how to allocate federal resources. This puts a premium on programs that spur economic growth and build the human and technological capital upon which we can build a better, and fiscally solvent, America.

Universities are a key producer of a well-trained workforce and innovative technologies, a role we relish but can only successfully execute through our historic partnership with the federal government. Through well-conceived federal programs and policies, universities have trained scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs who have made cutting-edge discoveries. These discoveries in turn have been translated into technologies that have saved lives, revolutionized society, and resulted in the creation of new jobs and economies.

As we look forward to the Fiscal Year 2012 budget and beyond, we must continue to make education and scientific research a national priority. Our ability to overcome the global challenges of the future is directly tied to the quality and competitiveness of our human capital and their capacity to out-innovate our rivals. Building and maintaining our innovation pipeline is a long-term endeavor that requires patience and steady and sustained growth.

To that end, I urge your support for the competitively awarded research grant programs at the federal agencies. Specifically, funding the following research agencies at the following levels:

- National Institutes of Health: \$31.7 billion
- National Science Foundation: \$7.7 billion
- Department of Energy Office of Science: At least \$5.4 billion
- Department of Defense 6.1 Basic Research Account: \$2.08 billion
- National Endowment for the Humanities: \$167 million

Together, these peer-reviewed grant programs form the foundation of the nation's research enterprise, providing nearly 59 percent of funding for basic research across the country. Investments in human capital are also critical in ensuring our economic competitiveness. All of these agencies support graduate students, who are at the core of university labs and the future scientific and engineering workforce.

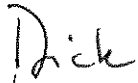
In addition, I urge your support for Department of Education programs important to higher education.

- Maintain the Pell Grant maximum award level of \$5,550
- Level-fund campus-based aid programs that complement the Pell and federal loan programs
- Retain the graduate interest loan subsidy, proposed to be eliminated by the President.

Finally, I hope you will provide the leadership to continue funding of the international education programs administered by the Department of Education at the FY10 level of \$126 million. These programs are essential to maintaining our international education capacity, which is of vital strategic importance to our nation. International education has taken decades to build, and if programs such as those supported by Title VI are not safeguarded, it could be extremely difficult to reconstruct.

I do not envy the difficult budget decisions facing you and your colleagues. As you embark on this task, I respectfully request you take these recommendations into consideration as you communicate your FY 12 funding priorities to the Appropriations Committee. My colleagues and I at Duke University stand ready to be a resource and urge you to contact us if there is any way in which we may be helpful.

With best wishes,



Richard H. Brodhead

cc: Michael Schoenfeld
Chris Simmons