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February 25, 2019

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

Ohio's Public University Presidents respectfully urge your support for the enactment of a bipartisan budget agreement that raises discretionary spending caps for Federal Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021. The Inter-University Council values our federal partnerships. Over the years, our collaboration has had a positive effect on Ohio's economy and workforce.

However, without robust and sustained federal investment, university research initiatives and student aid programs will suffer, stalling Ohio's economic growth and hurting low-income students. Federal student aid programs are critical for the students our universities serve. They help increase access and affordability for first-generation and low-income students and help ensure those students stay in school and graduate.

Ohio's public higher education institutions rank 7th in the nation for research and development spending, according to the National Science Foundation (NSF). Our institutions have leveraged these critical federal investments into new scientific discoveries and technology in medicine, national security, engineering, and STEM education. For example, the NSF in September renewed a grant expected to total \$4.5 million over five years to support the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP), which is executed, in part, by six of the IUC institutions. The alliance works to increase the number of underrepresented minority students in STEM fields. By 2016, LSAMP institutions were awarding more than twice as many underrepresented minority student STEM degrees than they were in 2011 – a one hundred and twenty percent increase.

Our institutions and students need predictability when making financial decisions, and our nation's finest researchers rely on federal dollars to discover the latest medical innovation. Without sufficient financial aid, our students, who are the future of the nation's workforce, may not complete and may face years of student debt. Without sufficient resources, our ability to research, develop and commercialize new technologies, products, and inventions will suffer. We ask that you keep the over 329,000 students we serve in consideration as Congress negotiates the enactment of a bipartisan budget agreement that raises discretionary spending caps.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Signature Page Attached

cc: All members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation

The University of Akron
University of Cincinnati
Miami University
Ohio University
Wright State University

The Public Universities of Ohio

Bowling Green State University
Cleveland State University
Northeast Ohio Medical University
Shawnee State University
Youngstown State University

Central State University
Kent State University
The Ohio State University
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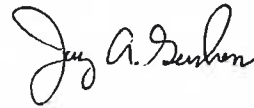
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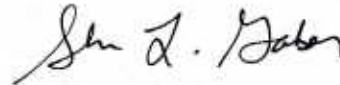
President Michael V. Drake
The Ohio State University



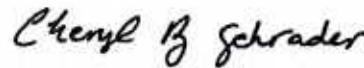
President M. Duane Nellis
Ohio University



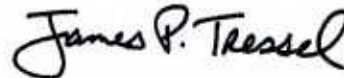
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