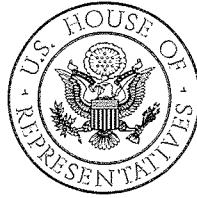


PATRICK J. KENNEDY
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

WASHINGTON OFFICE
407 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-4911
FAX: (202) 225-3290
Email: patrick.kennedy@mail.house.gov

DISTRICT OFFICE
249 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, SUITE 200
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860
(401) 729-5600
(800) 392-5772
FAX (401) 729-5608

www.patrickkennedy.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2007

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On August 24, 2007, you received a memo from John Young, Director of Defense Research and Engineering. We support the views expressed by Mr. Young in his memo and urge you to take those views into account when considering your budget request for Fiscal Year 2009.

As Mr. Young notes, investments in Department of Defense (DoD) Science & Technology (S&T) programs, and particularly in foundational or basic science programs, are most often the investments that lead to groundbreaking advancements in our warfighting capabilities. DoD support for these programs is also vital to training U.S. students in science and engineering fields critical to our future national defense. Despite its importance, the DoD S&T budget has increased at a far slower rate than the DoD RDT&E budget. Furthermore, foundational science has been reduced to less than 15 percent of the total S&T budget in recent years, a level which historically exceeded 20 percent of the S&T budget.

The concerns described by Mr. Young echo the concerns laid out by yourself and other members of the Augustine Commission in the 2005 report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*. In his memo, Mr. Young states that "The last decade of growth in acquisition and advanced research and development has drawn upon a reservoir of knowledge and technology developed by S&T investment – analogous to draining a pool. In the rest of the world, there has been a resurgence of S&T investment." Accelerated investments in S&T programs in other countries require us to redouble our own efforts in this area.

We agree with Mr. Young's conclusion that "some increase in the Defense Department's early phase S&T program is merited by the combination of technology opportunities, the diversification of the threat, and the decline in corporate research investment." Although we recognize that the specific program funding levels suggested

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
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by Mr. Young in his memo are meant to serve only as a discussion point for your internal deliberations, we strongly encourage you to give serious consideration both to the specific funding levels and the overall theme of Mr. Young's memo as you prepare your Fiscal Year 2009 budget request.

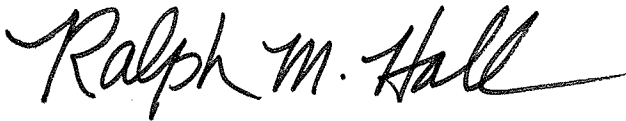
Sincerely,



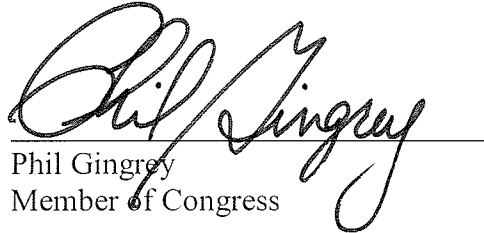
Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress



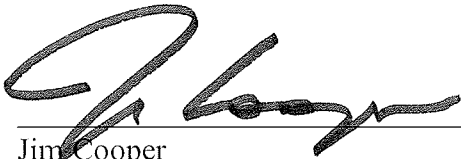
Bart Gordon
Member of Congress



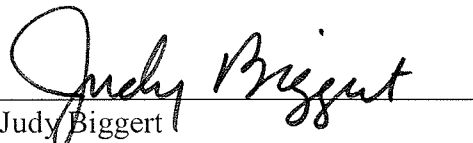
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