



November 26, 2013

The Honorable John Cornyn III
517 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Senator Cornyn,

As Chancellors and Presidents of Texas' institutions of higher education, we urge you to consider the impact sequestration budgetary restraint measures have on basic research and educational programs at Texas universities. Further reductions to the budgets of research agencies and other federal programs threaten critical national investments that grow our State's economy, support Texas students, and spur the innovation and discovery required to meet future scientific, medical, and economic needs. We ask that you consider setting spending priorities within the traditional budget and appropriations process so that the federal government's support of basic research and education programs finds its rightful place in the budget.



More than half of U.S. economic growth since World War II is a result of technological innovation, much of which is a result of federally-funded scientific research. The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation estimated last year that the loss in innovation due to sequestration would significantly reduce GDP over the nine-year period of the sequester. Additional sequestration cuts over the next eight years will cause even greater harm and will widen the gap between needed and actual federal investments in research and education, creating an innovation deficit.



Our universities and colleges serve as major employers for communities across Texas. There are nearly 270,000 staff and faculty employed by higher education institutions in Texas. Similarly, many Texas colleges and universities are national and global leaders in research and development (R&D). In Fiscal Year 2010, for example, the total amount of higher education R&D expenditures in Texas exceeded \$4 billion, with roughly half being Federally-funded. In addition to the clear educational benefits of robust R&D portfolios, the economic opportunities that arise for Texas businesses through technology transfer and commercialization are limitless, and the downstream economic benefits for Texas communities and our nation are tremendous.



We are also very concerned about the impact of programmatic reductions on Texas' students. There are currently more than 850,000 students enrolled in Texas' four-year degree-granting institutions of higher education, and as our state continues its record growth, the number of college students is expected to continue to increase. Many of these students rely upon federal educational programs to attend college. The availability of federal financial aid, work-study programs, and affordable loans often determine whether these students attend college or not. Federal student aid should remain a national priority to ensure



that Texans, regardless of their economic status, have the opportunity to attend college and improve their ability to contribute to our state's robust economy and culture.

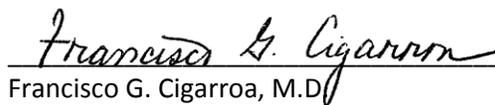
We appreciate the difficult decisions that must be made as you progress through the budgetary process, and ask that you give greater consideration to the detrimental impact the sequestration has had on the Texas higher education community. The legitimate and necessary investment in research and development is vital to the successful preparation of our students for the economy of tomorrow.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of Texas higher education. We are grateful for your consideration of this important issue.

With highest regards,



Duane Nellis
President, Texas Tech University



Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D.
Chancellor, The University of Texas System



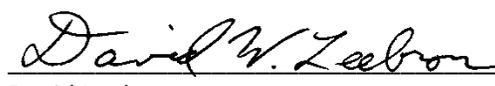
John Sharp
Chancellor, Texas A&M University System



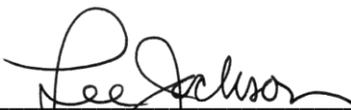
Brian McCall
Chancellor, Texas State University System



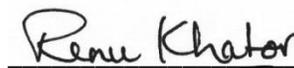
R. Gerald Turner
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David Leebron
President, Rice University



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Ken Starr
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