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Dear Colleagues,

The federal government supports many programs that benefit all Americans, including basic scientific research; public health; education and job training; public safety and law enforcement; weather monitoring; housing and social services; and international relations. In Washington, these programs are collectively referred to as “nondefense discretionary” or simply “NDD” programs. On January 2, 2013 these programs will face devastating, across-the-board cuts of 8.2 percent through an arcane budget tool known as "sequestration" unless Congress works together to prevent these cuts through a bipartisan, balanced approach to deficit reduction.

On **September 20th** please join the NDD community in a **National NDD Community Call-in and Tweet Day** and ask your member of Congress to support a **balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to NDD programs, including funding for basic science and mathematics research.**

NDD programs represent a relatively small and shrinking share of the federal budget and our overall economy—already reduced to levels not seen since President Eisenhower held office. They are not the drivers of the debt. In fact, **even completely eliminating all NDD programs would still not balance the budget.** Yet to date NDD programs have borne the brunt of deficit reduction efforts. If sequestration is allowed to take effect, core services upon which Americans have come to rely will be greatly curtailed or even eliminated.

Please call, Tweet, or Facebook message your members of Congress today to let them know that NDD programs, including funding for basic science and mathematics research, have already done their part to help reduce the deficit – it’s now time for a balanced approach! **Sample talking points, Tweets, and information about how to contact your Members of Congress are included below to help you advocate to protect NDD programs.**

Suggested Talking Points

(For use on Facebook and calls to congressional offices)

This January, essential jobs and services such as medical research, education, public safety, air traffic control and funding for basic science and mathematics research will face more deep cuts through sequestration.

- There is bipartisan agreement that these cuts would be devastating to the nation.
- For basic science and mathematics research specifically, these cuts will mean:

[INSERT YOUR STORY HERE--HOW WILL THE 8.2% CUTS AFFECT YOU/THOSE YOU SERVE?]

- Only through a balanced approach can we avoid sequestration, balance the budget and restore the nation's economic stability.
- **I ask that you work with your colleagues to find a bipartisan, balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to basic science and mathematics research.**

How to Call Your Members of Congress:

For those not familiar with calling the offices of your Members of Congress, you can call the Capitol Switchboard and asked to be connected to your Members' offices. The phone number is (202)224-3121. You can also go to www.Congress.org to find the office's direct line and to look up your Members of Congress.

Suggested Tweets

How to Tweet Your Members of Congress:

For a complete list of Members of Congress and their Twitter handles, as well as other social media accounts, please see these [House](#) & [Senate](#) lists. For those relatively new to Twitter, this is a great [Twitter 101 Guide](#) from the folks at Half in Ten/Center for American Progress.

Template

Invest in basic science and mathematics research **[insert Member Twitter handle]**. Support balance to stop #sequestration! #NDDUnited.

Sample

Invest in basic science and mathematics research@MaxBaucus. Support balance to stop #sequestration! #NDDUnited

Template (links to NDD national sign-on letter)

Remember **[insert Member Twitter handle]** over 3000 groups want you to support a balanced approach to stop #sequestration! <http://bit.ly/N2jgsB> #NDDUnited

Sample

Remember @MaxBaucus, over 3000 groups want you to support a balanced approach to stop #sequestration! <http://bit.ly/N2jgsB> #NDDUnited

For more information on the January 2013 Sequestration and what you can do to help the AMS in the effort to avoid it, see <http://www.ams.org/policy/government/advocacy/January2013Sequestration>