

March 14, 2011

Senator Patrick Leahy
SD-127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congresswoman Kay Granger
HB-26, The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6021

Senator Lindsey Graham
SH-125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congresswoman Nita Lowey
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6157

Dear Senators Leahy and Graham and Congresswomen Granger and Lowey,

We write to express our strong support for the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). Since it was created by President Reagan in 1984, this non-partisan federal institute has played a central role in efforts to prevent, manage and resolve international conflicts around the world. We, the undersigned institutions, oppose efforts to eliminate USIP's funding in the FY 2011 continuing resolution (HR 1).

USIP has played an important role that the State Department is not always able to take on – acting as an independent voice for peace and conflict resolution. The Institute has fostered some of the most important ideas in conflict resolution and negotiation in the last few decades. They have brought those ideas directly to action in the Middle East, the Balkans, North Africa and in countless other regions around the world. They have focused their resources on ground-level efforts, like their tribal reconciliation programs, which seek to end local conflicts that directly endanger U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. There can be no greater contribution to our national security than creating peace in turbulent lands.

In difficult economic times, when philanthropic contributions would be the most challenging to find, it seems clear that cutting off government funding for this important agency could only serve to weaken the USIP's important national security role. As institutions that have worked closely with USIP in support of its mission around the globe, we can attest to the great value and necessity of its work. We applaud all of you for your efforts in supporting this agency in the past, and we hope you will continue to work to protect their FY 2011 funding.

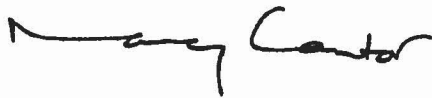
Sincerely,



Steven Knapp
President
The George Washington University



Wallace D. Loh
President
University of Maryland



Nancy Cantor
Chancellor and President
Syracuse University



Holden Thorp
Chancellor
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



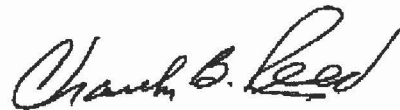
Janet Morgan Riggs
President
Gettysburg College



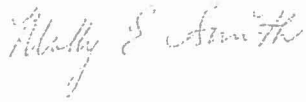
Lawrence Bacow
President
Tufts University



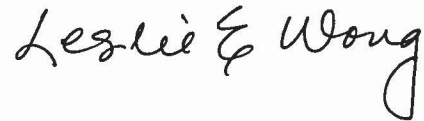
David Maxwell
President
Drake University



Charles B. Reed
Chancellor
The California State University



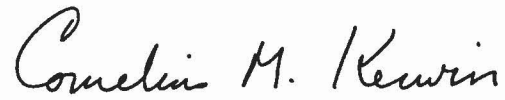
Molly E. Smith
President
Manhattanville College



Les Wong
President
Northern Michigan University



Michael M. Crow
President
Arizona State University



Neil Kerwin
President
American University



Stephen L. Weber
President
San Diego State University