

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today released a letter co-authored with U.S. Rep. David Price (NC-04) to the members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, urging the so-called “supercommittee” to prioritize investments in education and research.

“The best approach for dealing with the economic ills of the country and the deficit is to promote economic growth, and the necessary ingredients are investment in research and education,” Rep. Holt said. “It is essential that the committee keep this in mind.”

“Investments in education and research have made North Carolina a center of high-tech jobs in R&D and the industries that will drive the 21st Century economy,” Rep. Price said. “We need to preserve these investments in NC—and across the country—because they ensure our economic success by giving our workers the tools they need to compete with the world and win.”

The letter, which received the support and signatures of 58 other members of Congress, states in part:

"Our investments in education, research and development – including funding for basic science and biomedical research at universities and federal labs and wise incentives for private sector research – have put our economy on the cutting edge of the world’s most advanced industries. These investments are a powerful way to spur job growth and are a must for a country that seeks to be competitive in the 21st Century economy.

"We can fully develop our nation’s human capital only if we offer all our citizens the opportunity to achieve the highest possible levels of education. Strategic investments in education and student aid have made it possible for generations of Americans to obtain a college education, regardless of their income.

"Further constraining domestic discretionary funding on education and scientific research will hinder our culture of innovation, adversely affecting our national security and the ability to improve our nation’s health and economic recovery. As you continue your work, we strongly urge the Committee to ensure that deficit reduction policies strengthen, rather than harm, the

nation's education, science and research infrastructure."

The letter has been endorsed by the Association of American Universities, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, the Task Force on American Innovation, the Student Aid Alliance, the Coalition for National Security Research, the Coalition for the National Science Foundation, the Energy Sciences Coalition, United for Medical Research, and the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding. [A copy of the full letter is available online.](#)

Reps. Holt and Price both bring backgrounds in education and research to the funding debate. Rep. Holt is the only research scientist in the House of Representatives. His district includes Princeton University and the Institute for Advanced Study. Rep. Price attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and taught political science and public policy at Duke University before his election to Congress. His district includes a number of flagship universities and the Research Triangle Park.