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By Theresa Defino

◆ Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Florida, has relaunched the bipartisan Congressional Academic Medicine Caucus with new co-chair Rep. David McKinley, R-West Virginia, who replaced Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tennessee. Roe retired in January. According to an undated letter posted April 13 by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the two have invited all members of Congress to join the caucus to “promote and recognize the important role that medical schools, teaching hospitals and faculty physicians play to improve the health of people everywhere.” In addition to pioneering medical treatments, academic medical centers serve as “vital economic engines at the local, state and national levels. They generate jobs, pay wages and support business and community development opportunities for our neighbors,” Castor and McKinley wrote. (4/15/21)

◆ The Association of American Universities (AAU) has issued a summary of President Biden's fiscal year 2022 so-called “skinny budget” unveiled April 9, which, overall, calls for “\$1.52 trillion in discretionary spending, an 8.4 percent increase over the current fiscal year.” AAU's summary “outlines Biden's appropriations priorities including investments in public health, the economy, the climate crisis, advancing equity, and restoring America's global standing and confronting 21st century security challenges.” According to the spending outline—a full budget is expected in May—Biden is proposing “\$769 billion in non-defense spending and \$753 billion in defense spending,” reflecting a “15.9 percent increase over current funding levels for domestic programs and a 1.6 percent increase for defense discretionary spending,” AAU said. (4/15/21)

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