



January 26, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – an alliance of over 140 professional organizations, scientific societies, universities, and businesses united in our advocacy for the National Science Foundation (NSF) – **we urge you to fund NSF at the highest level possible in FY 2024 appropriations.** NSF investments are key to bolstering U.S. innovation and competitiveness by funding highly meritorious curiosity-driven research; building and fostering U.S. STEM education and workforce programs; supporting scientists and engineers with cutting-edge facilities; and addressing the most pressing issues of our time.

Thank you for your efforts to protect investments in the NSF in FY 2024 appropriations. We understand the difficult fiscal climate and appreciate the prioritization of NSF in both the Senate and House bills to keep NSF funding at approximately FY 2023 levels while other programs have faced cuts. Cuts to NSF would be absolutely devastating to our innovation ecosystem and national security. However, the current level of funding at \$9.5 billion falls far below our competitiveness needs. Flat funding will impede NSF's ability to fully stand up the Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP); threaten the success of the Regional Innovation Engines program to transform regional economies; delay needed infrastructure projects; and slow investments in critical emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) institutes.

We appreciate the House's proposed higher overall level of funding for NSF at \$9.63 billion. However, we are concerned by the deep cuts proposed in the House bill for the Directorate for STEM Education. The Directorate funds critical workforce training programs, graduate fellowships and traineeships, research to

improve STEM education at all levels, and important programs that broaden participation in STEM and ensure that we can harness talent from all regions of our country. We are facing enormous workforce shortages in emerging technologies while our competitors are investing major amounts to build their science and technology ecosystems. We will not be able to compete without the researchers, technicians, and other STEM workers of the future and we cannot meet our workforce needs without reaching students from all backgrounds. NSF education research programs are innovating to ensure our K-12 and undergraduate education systems can meet the needs of teachers and learners in a rapidly changing world. STEM EDU and Research and Related Activities funding are both critical and complementary to each other – they should grow together to achieve our innovation and competitiveness priorities.

We are facing major competition from China in critical technologies such as AI and quantum, and we will lose our leadership if we don't expand our research and innovation ecosystem. As you know, the bipartisan *CHIPS and Science* Act demonstrated strong congressional intent for major NSF growth. The law authorizes \$15.6 billion in FY 2024 to advance these critical technology areas, enable transformational efforts to enhance regional innovation, and increase support for foundational research and education activities. NSF will also not be able to implement the numerous new activities outlined in *CHIPS and Science* without substantial additional funding as specified in the Act. We urge Congress to include NSF in any supplemental funding package focused on bolstering our defense and national security.

As you work to finalize FY 2024 appropriations, we urge you to fund NSF at the highest possible level and to use supplemental funding to bring NSF funding to the level authorized in CHIPS and Science. Thank you for your continued bipartisan support for NSF and the millions of scientists, engineers, students, and entrepreneurs it supports to advance cutting-edge research, STEM education, and technology that will benefit us all.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding

American Anthropological Association	George Washington University
American Association for the Advancement of Science	Georgia Institute of Technology
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR)	Harvard University
American Association of Geographers	Harvey Mudd College
American Association of Physics Teachers	IEEE-USA
American Astronomical Society	Indiana University
American Chemical Society	Lehigh University
American Crystallographic Association	Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC
American Educational Research Association	Materials Research Society
American Economic Association	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
American Geophysical Union	Michigan Technological University
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)	National Association of Marine Laboratories
American Institute of Biological Sciences	National Postdoctoral Association
American Mathematical Society	Natural Science Collections Alliance
	Northern Illinois University
	Northwestern University
	The Ohio State University

American Physical Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Political Science Association  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Science and Technology Centers  
Atlanta University Center Consortium  
Battelle Memorial Institute  
Biophysical Society  
Boise State University  
Bose McKinney & Evans, LLP  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation  
Computing Research Association  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cornell University  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Scientific Society Presidents  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
Dartmouth College  
Duke University  
Ecological Society of America  
Entomological Society of America  
Eversole Associates  
Federation of American Scientists  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences  
Forge Policy Solutions  
Geological Society of America  
George Mason University  
Optica (formerly OSA)  
Oregon Institute of Technology  
Pennsylvania State University, Office of the Senior Vice President for Research  
Princeton University - Office of Government Affairs  
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University  
Sage Publishing, Inc.  
Saint Louis University  
Seismological Society of America  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society for Research in Child Development  
SPIE  
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
Stevens Institute of Technology  
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Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Yale University