January 26, 2024

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

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