

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

We write to respectfully request that the National Science Foundation (NSF) receive an appropriation of at least **\$9 billion** in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Now in its 70<sup>th</sup> year, the NSF is an independent federal agency created by Congress to promote the progress of science, secure the national defense, and to advance the nation's health, prosperity, and welfare. The scientific research and educational programs supported by NSF are integral to the continued success of America's innovation enterprise. NSF funded research has produced transformative scientific discoveries that have led to new industries, products, services, and enhanced the lives of all Americans. For example, NSF-funded research has supported technological advancements in artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, quantum information sciences, wireless broadband connectivity, and engineering biology. It has also funded research that addresses the challenges in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education to ensure that students can adapt to meet future workforce needs. Many more examples of the impact of NSF-funded research are available in the second edition of [Transforming the World Through Science](#).

For the United States to remain a global leader in scientific research, engineering, and technology development, the nation must provide greater investment in its people, including women and racial and ethnic minorities. These critical investments to NSF support programs such as NSF INCLUDES which provides access to research and STEM education opportunities for women and underrepresented minorities, and Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) which has provided similar opportunities to all Americans regardless of where they live in the United States. It is essential for the United States to continue to invest in NSF's education programs, including K-12 STEM education, undergraduate and graduate education and training, and informal education programs.

In addition to investing in people, the United States must continue to invest in Research and Development (R&D). Competitor nations continue to make great advancements in science and technology due to their significant investment in R&D. Some Asian and European countries are investing heavily in R&D and the STEM education and training of their workforces. According to the 2020 Science and Engineering Indicators report, the U.S. investment in R&D of \$548 billion was closely followed by China at \$495 billion – accounting for 25% and 23%, respectively in R&D funding worldwide. The National Science Board (NSB) expects China to surpass the United States in R&D investments in the near future. To remain globally competitive, the United States must continue to invest in fundamental scientific research just like the research that NSF funds across the scientific disciplines.

NSF is the only federal research agency that supports fundamental research in these important fields – biology, computer science, economics, engineering, educational research, geosciences, mathematics, and social and behavioral sciences. Given the breadth of the research funded by NSF, the Congress must appropriate at least \$9 billion for the agency in FY 2021. It is important to note that one out of every four basic research projects at higher learning institutions across the United States is supported by the NSF. All NSF grant proposals are critically reviewed to ensure they meet the intellectual merit and broader impacts criteria. The NSF's expert merit review process is the international gold-standard for the review and evaluation of grant proposals and relies upon the expertise and knowledge of leading scientists and engineers to ensure that the best research is being funded across the scientific disciplines. Full funding of the NSF will enable an additional 50,000 researchers, including teachers and students nationwide, to address some of our society's most pressing concerns through more than 11,000 competitive awards and 8,400 research grant awards.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support to ensure that the National Science Foundation receive at least \$9 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. This amount is the minimum level of funding needed to ensure future generations of Americans are prepared to help our nation remain the world economic leader.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,



---

G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



---

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

---

Member of Congress

**National Science Foundation  
FY 2021 Appropriations Letter Co-Signers**

1. The Honorable Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
2. The Honorable James R. Baird
3. The Honorable Andy Barr
4. The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
5. The Honorable Joyce Beatty
6. The Honorable Ami Bera, M.D.
7. The Honorable Donald S. Beyers Jr.
8. The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
9. The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
10. The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
11. The Honorable Brendan F. Boyle
12. The Honorable Anthony Brindisi
13. The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
14. The Honorable Julia Brownley
15. The Honorable Cheri Bustos
16. The Honorable Salud O. Carbajal
17. The Honorable Tony Cárdenas
18. The Honorable André Carson
19. The Honorable Sean Casten
20. The Honorable Kathy Castor
21. The Honorable Joaquin Castro
22. The Honorable Judy Chu
23. The Honorable David N. Cicilline
24. The Honorable Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
25. The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay
26. The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, II
27. The Honorable Steve Cohen
28. The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
29. The Honorable Jim Cooper
30. The Honorable Jim Costa
31. The Honorable Joe Courtney
32. The Honorable Angie Craig
33. The Honorable Sharice L. Davids
34. The Honorable Susan A. Davis
35. The Honorable Rodney Davis
36. The Honorable Madeleine Dean
37. The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
38. The Honorable Diana DeGette
39. The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
40. The Honorable Suzan K. DelBene
41. The Honorable Antonio Delgado
42. The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
43. The Honorable Ted Deutch
44. The Honorable Debbie Dingell
45. The Honorable Mike Doyle
46. The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
47. The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
48. The Honorable Dwight Evans
49. The Honorable Abby Finkenauer
50. The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
51. The Honorable Lizzie Fletcher
52. The Honorable Bill Foster
53. The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
54. The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
55. The Honorable Ruben Gallego
56. The Honorable John Garamendi
57. The Honorable Jesús G. "Chuy" García
58. The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
59. The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez
60. The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez
61. The Honorable Jenniffer González-Colón
62. The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
63. The Honorable Al Green
64. The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
65. The Honorable Deb Haaland
66. The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings

- |      |  |      |                                      |
|------|--|------|--------------------------------------|
| 67.  | The Honorable Danny K. Davis               | 104. | The Honorable Jahana Hayes           |
| 68.  | The Honorable Denny Heck                   | 105. | The Honorable James P. McGovern      |
| 69.  | The Honorable Brian Higgins                | 106. | The Honorable Jerry McNerney         |
| 70.  | The Honorable Jim Himes                    | 107. | The Honorable Gwen Moore             |
| 71.  | The Honorable Kendra S. Horn               | 108. | The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle      |
| 72.  | The Honorable Steven Horsford              | 109. | The Honorable Seth Moulton           |
| 73.  | The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan             | 110. | The Honorable Debbie Mucarsel-Powell |
| 74.  | The Honorable Pramila Jayapal              | 111. | The Honorable Stephanie Murphy       |
| 75.  | The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries              | 112. | The Honorable Jerrold Nadler         |
| 76.  | The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. | 113. | The Honorable Richard E Neal         |
| 77.  | The Honorable John Katko                   | 114. | The Honorable Joe Neguse             |
| 78.  | The Honorable William R. Keating           | 115. | The Honorable Donald Norcross        |
| 79.  | The Honorable Robin L. Kelly               | 116. | The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  |
| 80.  | The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy, III       | 117. | The Honorable Tom O'Halleran         |
| 81.  | The Honorable Ro Khanna                    | 118. | The Honorable Jimmy Panetta          |
| 82.  | The Honorable Andy Kim                     | 119. | The Honorable Chris Pappas           |
| 83.  | The Honorable Ron Kind                     | 120. | The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.     |
| 84.  | The Honorable Peter T. King                | 121. | The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.   |
| 85.  | The Honorable Adam Kinzinger               | 122. | The Honorable Ed Perlmutter          |
| 86.  | The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi          | 123. | The Honorable Scott H. Peters        |
| 87.  | The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster            | 124. | The Honorable Chellie Pingree        |
| 88.  | The Honorable Conor Lamb                   | 125. | The Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett     |
| 89.  | The Honorable James R. Langevin            | 126. | The Honorable Katie Porter           |
| 90.  | The Honorable Rick Larsen                  | 127. | The Honorable Ayanna Pressley        |
| 91.  | The Honorable John B. Larson               | 128. | The Honorable Jamie Raskin           |
| 92.  | The Honorable Al Lawson                    | 129. | The Honorable Kathleen M. Rice       |
| 93.  | The Honorable Barbara Lee                  | 130. | The Honorable Harley Rouda           |
| 94.  | The Honorable Mike Levin                   | 131. | The Honorable David Rouzer           |
| 95.  | The Honorable Andy Levin                   | 132. | The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.        |
| 96.  | The Honorable Ted W. Lieu                  | 133. | The Honorable Bobby L. Rush          |
| 97.  | The Honorable Daniel W. Lipinski           | 134. | The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez       |
| 98.  | The Honorable Dave Loebsack                | 135. | The Honorable John P. Sarbanes       |
| 99.  | The Honorable Zoe Lofgren                  | 136. | The Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon       |
| 100. | The Honorable Alan Lowenthal               | 137. | The Honorable Jan Schakowsky         |
| 101. | The Honorable Ben Ray Luján                | 138. | The Honorable Adam B. Schiff         |
| 102. | The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch             | 139. | The Honorable Bradley S. Schneider   |
| 103. | The Honorable Tom Malinowski               | 140. | The Honorable Kim Schrier, M.D.      |

- |      |                                     |      |                                       |
|------|-------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| 141. | The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney    | 159. | The Honorable David Scott             |
| 142. | The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney  | 160. | The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott |
| 143. | The Honorable Doris Matsui          | 161. | The Honorable Terri A. Sewell         |
| 144. | The Honorable Ben McAdams           | 162. | The Honorable Mikie Sherrill          |
| 145. | The Honorable A. Donald McEachin    | 163. | The Honorable Albio Sires             |
| 146. | The Honorable Elissa Slotkin        | 164. | The Honorable Paul Tonko              |
| 147. | The Honorable Adam Smith            | 165. | The Honorable David Trone             |
| 148. | The Honorable Darren Soto           | 166. | The Honorable Juan Vargas             |
| 149. | The Honorable Abigail D. Spanberger | 167. | The Honorable Marc Veasey             |
| 150. | The Honorable Jackie Speier         | 168. | The Honorable Filemon Vela            |
| 151. | The Honorable Greg Stanton          | 169. | The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez      |
| 152. | The Honorable Haley M. Stevens      | 170. | The Honorable Peter Welch             |
| 153. | The Honorable Steve Stivers         | 171. | The Honorable Jennifer Wexton         |
| 154. | The Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi      | 172. | The Honorable Susan Wild              |
| 155. | The Honorable Eric Swalwell         | 173. | The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson     |
| 156. | The Honorable Mark Takano           | 174. | The Honorable John Yarmuth            |
| 157. | The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson   | 175. | The Honorable Ted S. Yoho, DVM        |
| 158. | The Honorable Dina Titus            | 176. | The Honorable Don Young               |
|      |                                     | 177. | The Honorable Lee Zeldin              |