



October 25, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger:

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – a broad-based group of professional organizations, universities, scientific societies, and businesses – appreciates Congress’ continued support for the fundamental scientific research and educational programs supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF). As Congress seeks to finalize fiscal year 2020 (FY20) appropriations legislation, we respectfully offer two recommendations. **First, we urge Congress to complete the FY20 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill before the current continuing resolution expires on November 21. Second, we strongly urge Congress to make a significant funding increase for NSF a high priority.**

We greatly appreciate the good work of both chambers to increase the government’s investment in NSF, and recognize that the House-passed mark of \$8.6 billion would place NSF on the upward funding trajectory that it needs to continue U.S. leadership in science and technology. We request that Congress appropriate **at least \$8.6 billion for NSF in FY20**. We respectfully suggest, however, that additional funds are needed to address the effects of years of underinvestment in the fundamental scientific research supported by NSF.

CNSF’s original appropriations request of \$9 billion for NSF in FY20 sought to address the effects of years of underinvestment in the fundamental scientific research supported by NSF. Those unmet needs continue. A 2017 National Science Board report stated, “approximately \$3.92 billion of cutting-edge research deemed very good or higher in NSF’s merit criteria was unfunded in FY 2017.” The U.S. is leaving potentially transformative scientific research on the table, just as our allies and adversaries are making significant investments. One effective way to combat this concern is to ensure that NSF receives the highest funding level feasible so that the agency can support as many of its strong proposals as possible. This will allow NSF to support national priorities such as artificial intelligence, quantum information sciences, and advanced manufacturing. Otherwise, instead of the U.S. leading in the 21st century, we will fall behind other nations who are pushing forward in these areas.

For the last 70 years, NSF has been an essential pillar of America’s scientific enterprise and is the only federal agency with the mission of supporting all the scientific disciplines. Research supported by the agency is vital to the public interest and essential if our country is to stay at the forefront of scientific progress and the cutting edge of technology and innovation. Now is the time for the U.S. to make a significant and robust investment in NSF.

Thank you for considering our views. We are grateful for your continuing support for NSF.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)

Acoustical Society of America	American Society of Civil Engineers	Cavarocchi Ruscio Dennis Associates, LLC
American Anthropological Association	American Society of Mechanical Engineers	Computing Research Association
American Association for Dental Research	American Society of Plant Biologists	Consortium of Social Science Associations
American Association of Geographers	American Sociological Association	Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science Inc.
American Association of Physicists in Medicine	American Statistical Association	Cornell University
American Association of Physics Teachers	Arafune Government Relations, LLC	Council of Graduate Schools
American Astronomical Society	Archaeological Institute of America	Council on Governmental Relations
American Chemical Society	Arizona State University	Council on Undergraduate Research
American Educational Research Association	Association for Psychological Science	Crop Science Society of America
American Geophysical Union	Association for Women in Mathematics	Duke University
American Geosciences Institute	Association of American Medical Colleges	Eastman
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering	Association of American Universities	Ecological Society of America
American Institute of Biological Sciences	Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	Entomological Society of America
American Institute of Physics	Association of Research Libraries	Eversole Associates
American Mathematical Society	Association of Science-Technology Centers	Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
American Physiological Society	Bagley Group, LLC	Florida State University
American Phytopathological Society	Battelle	Geological Society of America
American Political Science Association	Biophysical Society	George Mason University
American Psychological Association	Boise State University	Georgetown University
American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Bose Washington Partners, LLC	Georgia Institute of Technology
American Society for Engineering Education	Boston University	Harvard University
American Society for Microbiology	Brandeis University	Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
American Society of Agronomy	Brown University	IEEE-USA
	California Institute of Technology	Illinois Institute of Technology
		Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology
		Indiana University
		Knowledge Alliance

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National Communication
Association
National Postdoctoral
Association
National Science Teachers
Association
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
OSA, The Optical Society
Pennsylvania State University
Population Association of
America/ Association of
Population Centers
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