



September 9th, 2025

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

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

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
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 Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, 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 2026**

appropriations. NSF investments are key to bolstering U.S. innovation and competitiveness; 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 2026 appropriations. We understand the difficult fiscal climate and appreciate the rejection of the massive cuts proposed for NSF in the budget request in the proposed FY 26 bills. We hope you will support the higher level of funding represented in the Senate bill. Cuts to NSF would be devastating to the U.S. innovation ecosystem and national security. The budget request notes that at the proposed level, NSF would impact 240,000 fewer people than it did in FY 2024 and make over 7,000 fewer awards. At this level of funding, whole fields could disappear, many students would give up on STEM, and our innovation ecosystem would lose future discoveries and the workforce that it needs to thrive. Even cuts at the House level would result in dramatic rollbacks of many critical areas of research.

CNSF members are concerned about substantial cuts in both bills for the Directorate for STEM Education, although we prefer the Senate approach to specify a level of funding. Without a specific level of funding appropriated, we fear the Administration will implement the massive cuts it has proposed, which would end many initiatives and deeply cut others. 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 hope Congress will protect STEM EDU with a specific funding level and keep funding as high as possible to enable these priorities.

Our country is facing major competition from China not only in critical technologies such as AI and quantum, but also in broad areas of basic science that form the foundation for these and other technologies. We will lose our leadership if we don't expand our research and innovation ecosystem. As you know, Congress has repeatedly demonstrated strong and bipartisan intent for NSF growth. Now is not the time to cut funding and educational programs that will advance these and other 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 scale research at the pace needed to dominate and lead in science without sustained and growing funding. We urge Congress to include NSF in any supplemental funding package focused on bolstering our defense and national security.

Finally, we request that any short-term continuing resolution protect NSF from irreversible cuts and actions until Congress has a chance to fully weigh in and finalize FY 2026 appropriations. Closures and mothballing of facilities cannot easily be undone, delays in grants lead to layoffs and lost future workforce, and the community is already challenged by many freezes and delays earlier this year. Congress should require NSF to spend at a true continuing rate and not implement dramatic changes that require Congressional approval before they take place.

As you work to finalize FY 2026 appropriations, we urge you to fund NSF at the highest possible level and to protect NSF programs and facilities from dramatic changes. 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

Activate
University of Alaska Fairbanks
American Anthropological Association
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Geographers
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Crystallographic Association
American Economic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Geophysical Union
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)

Geological Society of America
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College
IEEE-USA
Indiana University
Lehigh University
Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC
Linguistic Society of America
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Mathematical Assoc. of America
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Microsoft

American Institute of Biological Sciences	National Association of Marine Laboratories
American Mathematical Society	National Postdoctoral Association
American Physical Society	Natural Science Collections Alliance
American Physiological Society	New America
American Political Science Association	Northern Illinois University
American Psychological Association Services, Inc.	Northwestern University
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Optica (formerly OSA)
American Society for Engineering Education	Oregon Institute of Technology
American Society for Microbiology	Penn State University
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics	The Planetary Society
American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America	Population Association of America
American Society of Civil Engineers	Princeton University
American Society of Echocardiography	Research!America
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	Rochester Institute of Technology
American Society of Plant Biologists	Rochester Polytechnic Institute
American Sociological Association	Rutgers University
American Statistical Association	Sage Publishing, Inc.
ASME	Seismological Society of America
Association for Psychological Science	Society for American Archaeology
Association for Women in Mathematics	Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Association of American Medical Colleges/AAMC	Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Association of American Universities	Society for Neuroscience
Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities	Society for Research in Child Development
Association of Research Libraries	Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)
Association of Science and Technology Centers	SPIE
Atlanta University Center Consortium	Stanford University
AUCC, Inc.	Stevens Institute of Technology
Battelle Memorial Institute	Strangeworks, Inc.
Biophysical Society	Syracuse University
BioQUEST	The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
Boise State University	The Ohio State University
Bose McKinney & Evans, LLP	The Quider Group, LLC
Boston University	Tufts University
Brown University	University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation	University of California- Irvine
Coalition for the Life Sciences	University of California - Los Angeles
Colorado State University	University of California System
Computing Research Association	University of Cincinnati
Consortium of Social Science Associations	University of Colorado - Boulder
Cornell University	University of Florida
Council of Graduate Schools	University of Illinois System
Council of Scientific Society Presidents	University of Iowa
Council on Undergraduate Research	University of Michigan
Dartmouth College	University of Notre Dame
Duke University	University of Oregon
Ecological Society of America	University of Pittsburgh
Entomological Society of America	University of Rochester
Federation of American Scientists	University of Vermont
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology	University of Washington
Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences/FABBS	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Forge Policy Solutions	Vanderbilt University
	Virginia Commonwealth University
	Washington State University
	Washington University in St. Louis
	William & Mary
	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
	Woodwell Climate Research Center
	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
	Yale University