March 15, 2023

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Shaheen and Ranking Member Moran,

As the Subcommittee begins deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) writes to respectfully urge the Committee to appropriate at least $11.9 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY24. CNSF is an alliance of over 140 professional organizations, universities, and businesses, who are united by a commitment to the future vitality of the national science, mathematics, and engineering enterprise of the United States.

NSF funding is critical to ensure our innovation ecosystem is prepared to lead the world in the emerging technologies that are key to our national defense. Last year, large bipartisan majorities passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which authorized $15.7 billion for the agency in FY24. The Science provisions of CHIPS and Science direct NSF to expand its mission toward transforming innovation ecosystems with the new Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate; address growing workforce gaps in emerging technology areas by expanding its efforts in STEM education and broadening participation programs; and advance many priorities in foundational research and infrastructure programs. NSF is well prepared to take on the enhanced competitiveness mission envisioned in congressional innovation legislation and ramp up its investments in critical science and technology areas.

Even before the launch of the new TIP directorate and other new programs authorized in CHIPS and Science, NSF was unable to fund more than $2 billion worth of research proposals rated “very good or higher” each fiscal year. It is imperative that the rest of NSF see sustainable growth. New efforts can only be successful when built on a strong foundational research enterprise that supports research, education, and infrastructure to sustain our science and technology ecosystem.
For these reasons and more, NSF needs major growth in FY 2024 appropriations. We call on Congress to continue its support for NSF, provide at least $11.9 billion, and set NSF on a funding trajectory that will meet the major challenges our nation faces and ensure success for our future competitiveness, security, and resilience.

Thank you for considering our input. Please do not hesitate to call on CNSF as a resource as you move forward with the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for National Science Funding

Identical letter to: Chair Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright

American Anthropological Association
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR)
American Association of Geographers
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Crystallographic Association
American Educational Research Association
American Geophysical Union
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE)
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Psychological 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 &amp; 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
EarthScope Consortium
Ecological Society of America
Entomological Society of America
Eversole Associates
Federation of American Scientists
Federation of Associations in Behavioral &amp; Brain Sciences
Forge Policy Solutions
Geological Society of America
George Mason University