

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Moran and Ranking Member Van Hollen,

As the Subcommittee begins deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request robust funding of at least **\$9.9 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in FY27**.

Our nation faces urgent competitiveness challenges, and NSF funding is critical to ensuring our innovation ecosystem is prepared to lead the world in the emerging technologies that guarantee economic security and our national defense. The United States cannot afford to cede leadership in the fields that will define the future—including artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, advanced materials, and biotechnology. NSF’s support of basic and use-inspired research across all science and engineering disciplines assures American technological leadership and competitiveness against our adversaries.

NSF plays a vital role in strengthening the nation’s STEM workforce and driving economic growth. It supports more than a quarter of all graduate trainees in cutting-edge research fields and invests in the education of advanced technical workers at over 150 community colleges nationwide. Through close partnerships with industry, NSF helps address evolving labor market needs by funding targeted training and workforce development programs. The agency is also central to advancing innovation—supporting entrepreneurs and startups through programs like the Innovation Corps (I-Corps) and America’s Seed Fund, and fostering regional economic growth through its Regional Innovation Engines program.

For more than 75 years, the NSF has advanced the frontiers of research and innovation – often leading to transformative applications that weren’t imaginable at the time of discovery and generating economic benefits in communities nationwide. NSF-funded breakthroughs have helped make possible technologies we rely on every day, from the internet to MRI machines, GPS, and even the first images of a black hole. Today’s discoveries increasingly depend on collaboration across scientific and engineering disciplines, making it essential that the U.S.

continues to invest in a highly skilled technical workforce and the research infrastructure needed to support future innovation.

We urge the Committee to appropriate no less than \$9.9 billion in FY27 and set NSF on a funding trajectory that will keep our nation at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation across all fields of research, and thereby ensure success for our future competitiveness, economic growth, security, and resilience.

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