



Boston University

Brandeis University

Brown University

California Institute of Technology

Carnegie Mellon University

Case Western Reserve University

Columbia University

Cornell University

Dartmouth College

Duke University

Emory University

Georgia Institute of Technology

Harvard University

Indiana University

Iowa State University

The Johns Hopkins University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

McGill University

Michigan State University

New York University

Northwestern University

The Ohio State University

The Pennsylvania State University

Princeton University

Purdue University

Rice University

Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Stanford University

Stony Brook University –

State University of New York

Texas A&M University

Tufts University

Tulane University

University at Buffalo –

State University of New York

The University of Arizona

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of California, Santa Cruz

The University of Chicago

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Florida

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

The University of Iowa

The University of Kansas

University of Maryland, College Park

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

University of Missouri, Columbia

The University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill

University of Oregon

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Rochester

University of Southern California

The University of Texas at Austin

University of Toronto

The University of Utah

University of Virginia

University of Washington

The University of Wisconsin - Madison

Vanderbilt University

Washington University in St. Louis

Yale University

June 11, 2021

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chair, House Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
2405 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

I write to express the support of the Association of American Universities (AAU) for [H.R. 2225, the National Science Foundation for the Future Act](#), a bill which the House Science, Space and Technology Committee is scheduled to consider on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

I am very grateful that, throughout the process, you and your staff have remained open to input and feedback from AAU and the broad NSF stakeholder community. Draft legislation was circulated almost a year ago and comments were not only solicited but incorporated into the bill as introduced in March of this year. From the start, the Committee has worked on a bipartisan basis, and the product reflects the support of a diverse group of Members of Congress and stakeholders.

As additional modifications to the bill are considered by the full Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for and interest in specific provisions of the current legislation.

The strong five-year **funding authorization levels** recognize the immediate need at NSF for additional funding, followed by sustained and predictable increases.

AAU strongly supports the attention provided to **graduate education** in the legislation. In addition to bolstering graduate scholarships and fellowships, the bill also adopts many recommendations to help ensure that federal graduate STEM education programs are dynamic and inclusive, and that they continually evolve to prepare a truly innovative workforce.

We share the goals reflected in the bill of increasing **research capacity** in locations and among personnel historically under-represented in NSF funding. Building sustained research capacity and partnerships is a complex endeavor that goes beyond formula spending allocations. We look forward to working with you to address these goals as the legislation advances.

As you know, the Endless Frontier Act (S. 1260), which began as an authorization bill for NSF, was recently amended and approved by the full Senate. While AAU is also supportive of the

base legislation, we were discouraged to see the volume of extraneous provisions attached to the legislation. Many of these measures do not impact the university community; however, several duplicative and restrictive research security proposals were included without sufficient input on the potential adverse impacts of these provisions on U.S. scientific research. Consequently, we believe it is important to register our great appreciation for the collaborative approach the Committee has taken with the overall bill and specifically with the **research integrity and security** provisions of H.R. 2225. As you work through research integrity and security provisions, we encourage you to continue to employ policies that use a risk-based approach and do not impose requirements that impede research and innovation.

Finally, AAU supports the creation of the **Directorate for Science and Engineering Solutions (SES)** and its mission of supporting use-inspired research and commercialization efforts. As various ideas about how to approach a new entity at NSF for technology innovation have been considered in recent years, AAU has consistently supported the idea that NSF should be open to big and bold ideas and to experimenting with its own structure and funding mechanisms. AAU believes there is shared recognition on both sides of the aisle and across our nation that the United States should continue to be the world's leader in scientific innovation. To achieve that goal, Congress must provide the seed corn in federal funding to ensure research partnerships across the nation that help turn ideas into technologies that will solve our grandest global challenges. We commend the Committee for its careful development of the Directorate for SES and encourage you to continue to refine the legislative language to ensure appropriate flexibility and adequate funding.

Again, we thank you for the work you have put in producing this very strong and important legislation and support the Committee's efforts to reauthorize NSF in a bipartisan manner. We look forward to working with you as this bill continues to advance through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara".

Barbara R. Snyder  
President, Association of American Universities