

**From:** e-Dear Colleague

**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2016 3:58 PM

**Subject:** Appropriations, Education: Dear Colleague: Support funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017

## **Support funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017**

**From:** The Honorable G. K. Butterfield

**Sent By:** xxxx@mail.house.gov

**Date:** 3/14/2016

Support funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF)  
in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017

**\*\*\*This is a programmatic request\*\*\***

Supporters: Coalition for National Science Funding, Association of American Universities, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, American Political Science Association, American Education Research Association, American Mathematical Society, Research!America, IEEE-USA

**Current Cosigners (61): Beatty, Donald S. Beyer Jr., Brownley, Capps, Clark, Clarke, Connolly, Costello, Danny K. Davis, Delaney, Delauro, DelBene, Dingell, Edwards, Engel, Eshoo, Garamendi, Grayson, Grijalva, Denny Heck, Higgins, Huffman, Jackson Lee, Keating, Robin Kelly, Kennedy, III, Kind, Kirkpatrick, Langevin, Larsen, Lee, Levin, Lewis, Lipinski, Lowenthal, Lynch, McDermott, Moulton, Nadler, Norcross, Norton, Pascrell, Jr., Payne, Jr., Perlmutter, Peters, Plaskett, Pocan, Polis, Rangel, Rush, Adam Smith, Speier, Takano, Tsongas, Van Hollen, Vargas, Veasey, Watson Coleman, Welch, Frederica S. Wilson, Zeldin**

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to join us in sending the bipartisan letter below to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to respectfully request that the National Science Foundation (NSF) receive at least \$8 billion in funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.

The research and inventions made possible by the NSF have improved millions of Americans' lives. We are all kept safer through advanced chemical and weapons screening technology. At the workplace we have benefitted from the ability to communicate with clients and businesses using high-definition video conferencing. At home we are able to enjoy low-cost, renewable energy through solar technology. Abroad, our military has been protected through advanced radar technology and biological weapons sensors. Those types of breakthroughs and countless others are only possible through NSF-funded research as it is the only federal agency that supports essential education and research across all science and engineering fields.

Investing in the NSF is critical to our nation remaining competitive in the global economy. Our country is falling behind our competitors in key areas of education including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. We cannot afford to remain idle while our nation ranks 27th in math and 20th in science performance when compared with our peers. With a projected shortage by 2020 of five million STEM professionals, we need to prepare more Americans to succeed in high technology industries by supporting research and training through the NSF. One out of every four basic research projects at institutions of higher learning across the U.S. is supported by the NSF.

The value of NSF research transcends consumer technologies and workforce training – those discoveries also help grow American businesses and our economy. Basic research from NSF-funded projects has been spun off into new companies in areas like liquid cooling systems and more efficient batteries and has helped shape major industries like defense and renewable energy.

We respectfully request your support to ensure that the NSF receives at least \$8 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. We feel this amount is the minimum level of funding needed to prepare future generations to help our nation remain a world economic leader and to reflect the rising costs of research. If you wish to sign, please contact Dennis Sills in Representative Butterfield's office at [dennis.sills@mail.house.gov](mailto:dennis.sills@mail.house.gov) or Blake Deeley in Representative McKinley's office at [blake.deeley@mail.house.gov](mailto:blake.deeley@mail.house.gov). **The deadline to sign the letter is March 18, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.**

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

G. K. BUTTERFIELD

Member of Congress

DAVID B. MCKINLEY, P.E.

Member of Congress

## DRAFT DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER

March XX, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
H-310, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Honda  
Active Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda:

We write to respectfully request that the National Science Foundation (NSF) receive at least \$8 billion in funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The NSF is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science, secure the national defense; and to advance the nation's health, prosperity, and welfare. Ensuring the NSF has robust resources to carry out its important mission has never been more essential. More than 20 percent of jobs in our country require training in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields which are projected to experience the highest growth in coming years. At the same time the United States lags behind other nations in STEM training; our nation ranks 27th in mathematics and 20th in science performance. Nearly one-third of our country's adults have less than basic mathematics skills. To compete globally and avoid falling behind other countries, we must invest in the NSF as it is the only federal agency specifically responsible for supporting essential education and research across all science and engineering fields.

According to the Center on Education and the Workforce, there will be a shortage of five million STEM professionals by 2020. To meet our nation's workforce needs and facilitate research and development to compete in the world economy, it is vital that we fully fund the NSF. One out of every four basic research projects at higher learning institutions across the U.S. is supported by the NSF. Full funding of the NSF will enable 377,170 researchers, including teachers and students across the country, to address some of our society's most pressing concerns through 10,100 individual NSF awards.

NSF research has led to scientific and technological breakthroughs that have generated positive change in society and long-term economic benefits. Many of those discoveries have been expanded upon and applied commercially by domestic companies, benefiting the private sector and our nation's economy. Advanced rechargeable batteries, facial recognition software that can read emotions, and more protective sunscreens are examples of commercial products that have roots with the NSF, have created jobs, and have helped businesses grow. Each day NSF-supported inventions like those that detect chemical and biological weapons and models and management strategies for storms and disaster situations make our lives better and safer. Other breakthroughs have assisted our military through stealth camouflage and helped veterans transition home through advanced trauma research.

The NSF helps support our nation's brightest minds in their endeavors to address our most challenging problems. Included in this year's NSF budget are resources for the cancer "moonshot" and to investigate the transmission of the Zika virus. The budget also makes investments at all education levels to develop a modern and resourceful workforce that will enable our country to remain competitive in emerging industries.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support to ensure that the National Science Foundation receive at least \$8 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. This amount is the minimum level of funding needed to ensure future generations of Americans are prepared to help our nation remain a world economic leader.

Thank you very much.