



August 9, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harold S. Rogers  
Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305 Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Ryan, Pelosi, Rogers, and Lowey:

On behalf of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) – an alliance of 130 professional organizations, scientific societies, national associations, and universities – we thank you for your longstanding and consistent support for the National Science Foundation (NSF). Additionally, we strongly encourage you and all of the Members of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress to complete the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations process this year. Doing so, will help ensure a stable funding environment.

For the first time in years, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have passed all 12 spending bills out of committee. Achieving the considerable accomplishment of moving all of the funding bills through regular order is due to your dedication, bipartisan collaboration, and the hard-work of Members and congressional staff. We strongly encourage Congress to complete the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations process this year and not consider a long-term continuing resolution, which would effectively stifle funding for any new investments in scientific research, engineering, and STEM education grants and programs.

As the only federal research agency “charged with the promotion of scientific progress across all scientific and engineering disciplines,” the research supported by NSF is absolutely vital to the nation’s economic health, national security, and global competitiveness. Since 2010, the agency has lost ground in real dollars. While our support for research is declining, other nations are increasing their investment in research and development. For the United States to remain globally competitive and be the birthplace of cutting-edge scientific innovations, Congress must complete the Fiscal Year 2017 process this year and appropriate \$7.564 billion – which is the discretionary level of funding requested in the FY2017 Presidential Budget Request -- for NSF in FY2017. Within this level of funding, we urge Congress

to appropriate \$6 billion for Research and Related Activities, \$898.8 million for Education and Human Resources, and \$193.1 million for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction.

Again, we appreciate your longstanding support for NSF. Upon Congress' return from the August recess, we certainly hope that legislative action will be taken to complete the appropriations process and appropriate \$7.564 billion for NSF in FY2017.

Sincerely,

Coalition for National Science Funding