

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 22, 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 27<sup>th</sup> in mathematics and 20<sup>th</sup> 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

Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Honda  
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Page 2

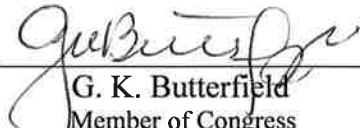
management strategies for storms and disaster situations make our lives better and safer. Other breakthroughs have assisted our military through stealth camouflage and helped veterans transition home through advanced trauma research.

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.

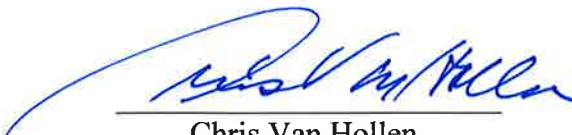
For these reasons, we respectfully request your support to ensure that the National Science Foundation receive at least \$8 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. This amount is the minimum level of funding needed to ensure future generations of Americans are prepared to help our nation remain a world economic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

Thank you very much.


Very truly yours,

  
G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

  
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

  
Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress

  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

  
Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



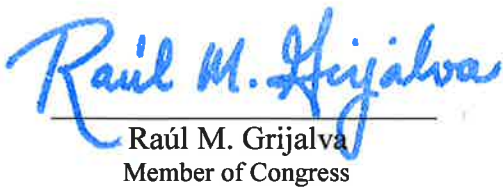
Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Peter King  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



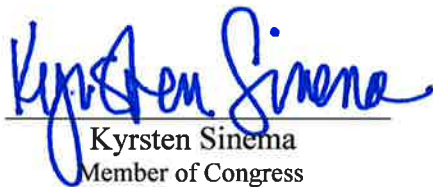
Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress




Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress


  
Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress

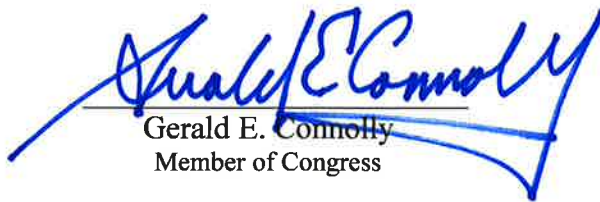
  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress


  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress

  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Gerald M. "Jerry" McNerney  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



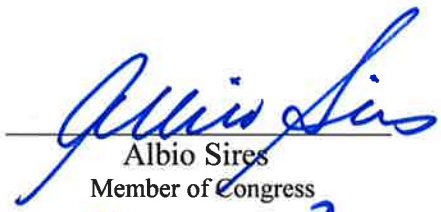
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



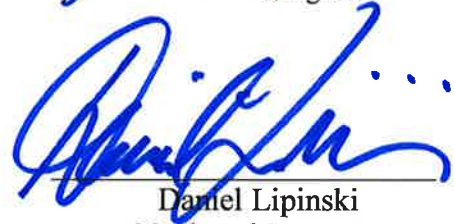
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski  
Member of Congress



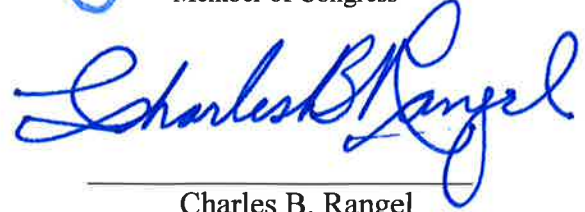
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



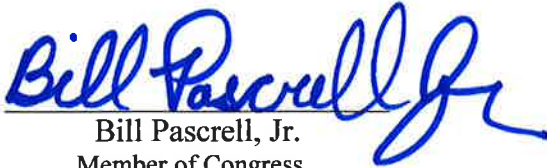
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



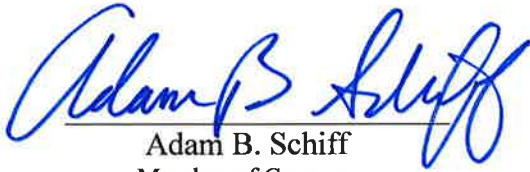
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



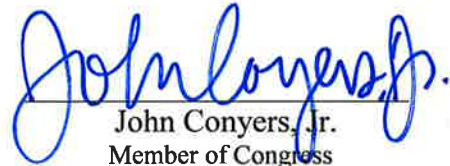
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



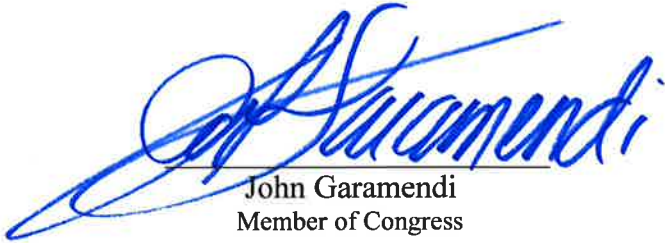
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



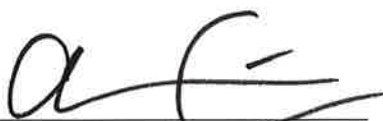
John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



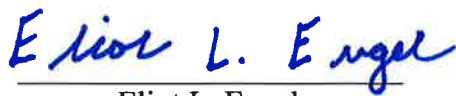
Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Gene Green  
Member of Congress



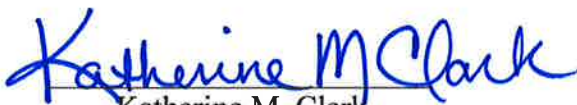
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress



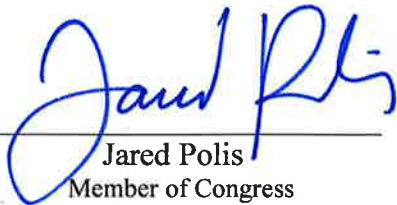
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



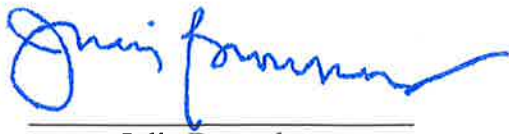
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



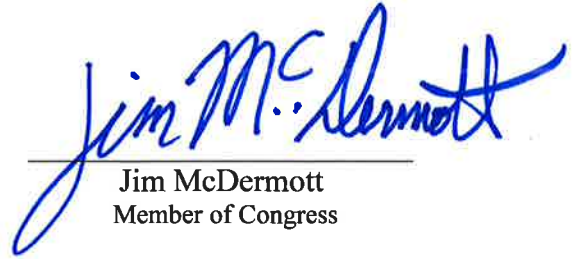
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



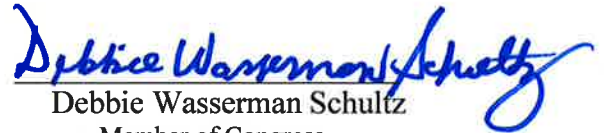
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



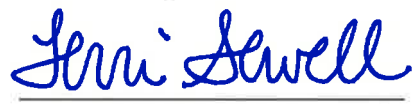
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



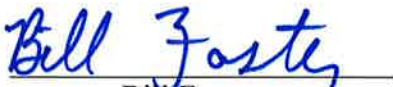
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



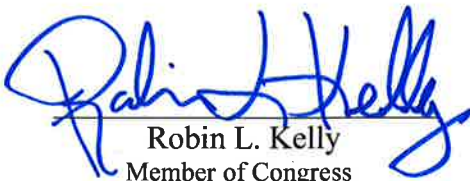
Gwen Graham  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress



  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

  
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress

  
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

  
James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

  
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

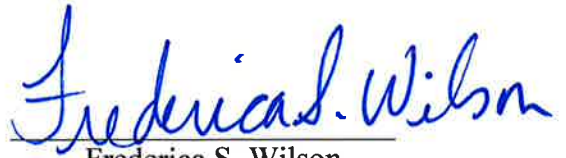
  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

  
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress


  
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



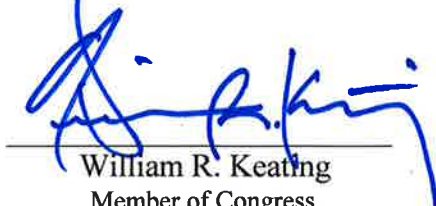
Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress


  
Susan DelBene  
Member of Congress


  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

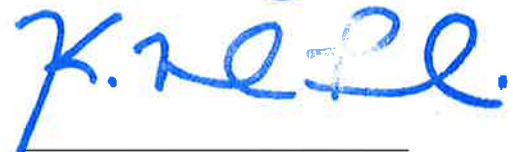
  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

  
Janice Hahn  
Member of Congress

  
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress

  
Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

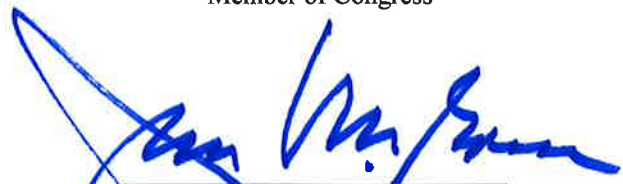
  
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

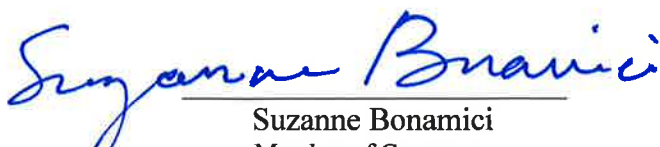
  
Mark Takai  
Member of Congress

  
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

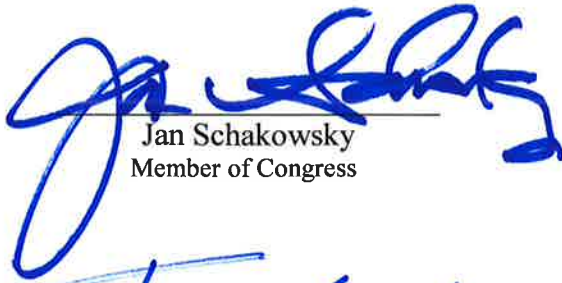
  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

  
Al Green  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



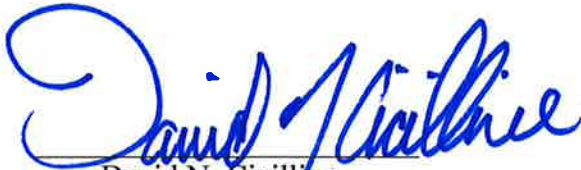
David E. Price  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



David Loebsock  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver II  
Member of Congress

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