

Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, write to you as stewards of America's scientific enterprise. Restoring full leadership and governance at the National Science Foundation (NSF) is a key national priority, critical to U.S. economic competitiveness and national security amid escalating global competition.

Scientific progress and technological innovation have been the twin engines of American greatness. But, as President Trump warned, "Rivals abroad seek to usurp America's position as the world's greatest maker of marvels and producer of knowledge." China's five-year plan pours sustained investments into artificial intelligence, quantum technology, semiconductors, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, and the scientific workforce. China is now, for the first time in our nation's history, investing more in R&D than the U.S.

NSF is a vital engine for our country, driving tangible societal and economic benefits that yield unmatched returns on investment across critical areas, including:

- **Economic Competitiveness and Innovation:** NSF [breathes life into local economies](#) by supporting small businesses and driving regional job growth. It seeds new industries, fueling long-term national competitiveness.
- **National Security:** America's defense relies on scientific supremacy. By advancing critical technologies and workforce capabilities, NSF [keeps the United States resilient and prepared](#) against emerging global threats.
- **STEM Education:** NSF [brings cutting-edge math, science, and AI literacy programs](#) directly to America's students.
- **Workforce Development:** NSF dismantles barriers to opportunity. Funding community college technical training and university fellowships [builds the highly skilled workforce required](#) to keep America competitive.

- **Societal Well-being:** NSF bridges the gap between basic science and everyday life, funding projects that tangibly [improve the health, safety, and daily lives of our citizens](#).
- **Research Infrastructure:** World-class innovation requires world-class facilities. The NSF [sustains the essential public and private research bedrock](#) where tomorrow's breakthroughs are born.

Strong NSF leadership ensures these critical investments continue to fuel American greatness.

The country that leads in science and technology will set the terms of global economic and military competition. The United States should be that country. But without leadership at NSF, we risk a critical failure in our national security and economic competitiveness. NSF is indispensable to this mission, serving as our primary defense against technological and scientific surprise—the risk that adversaries achieve foundational breakthroughs in AI, medicine, or cybersecurity systems before we do. NSF's merit-based portfolio, spanning every field of inquiry, is our strongest defense against the unknown. To successfully navigate an era of escalating competition, NSF must be guided by confirmed leadership and rigorous, independent oversight.

We, the undersigned, therefore, respectfully urge two actions:

First, we respectfully urge the Committee to schedule a confirmation hearing for NSF Director nominee James O'Neill without delay, ensuring the confirmation process occurs before the Congressional August recess. America's scientific enterprise urgently needs a permanent, confirmed leader. A hearing provides Senators, the scientific enterprise, and the American public the vital opportunity to evaluate the nominee's vision. NSF's future direction, funding priorities, and commitment to the full breadth of fundamental research demand genuine scrutiny. A confirmation process is precisely the venue for these questions.

Second, we urge the White House to quickly seat a highly qualified new National Science Board. The National Science Foundation Act of 1950 provides strict statutory criteria. Nominees must be eminent in relevant fields, have records of distinguished service, and reflect due consideration to recommendations submitted by scientific organizations. A Board possessing the broad scientific expertise and balanced representation the mission demands will strengthen the NSF and give the new Director the expert, independent counsel needed to succeed. Furthermore, it will clearly demonstrate to our scientific community and competitors that America is fully committed to global leadership in science and technology.

To realize President Trump's vision of a 'Golden Age of American Innovation,' we urge you to ensure the NSF has the sustained leadership and resources needed to cement America's global technological and scientific edge.

Respectfully,

AERDF
Agora Education Research
All4Ed
American Association for Dental, Oral, and
Craniofacial Research
American Educational Research Association
Applied Learning Insights
Apprendis LLC
Arizona Technology and Education Association
Beyond100K & Starfish Institute
Colorado STEM Ecosystem
Data Science 4 Everyone
Digital Promise Global
Earth Force
EDGE
Education Development Center
Education Reform Now Advocacy
Entomological Society of America
GreatSchools
Imagine Network
In Tandem
InnovateEDU
Insider Consulting
jeffweldLLC.org
LEAP Innovations
Michigan State University
Molecules in Motion
MyEducationResearcher
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council on Measurement in Education
National Council on Teacher Quality
National Prevention Science Coalition To Improve
Lives Inc
New Jersey Academy of Science
OneSeventeen Media, PBC
Pennsylvania Alliance for STEM Education
Project Evident
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Renbarger Research and Consulting
Rethink Learning, Inc.
Scribble

SERP Institute
Society For Biomaterials
Society of Experimental Psychologists
Starfish Institute
St. Cloud Area Schools
The Concord Consortium
The Study Group
The Tech Interactive
Tumblehome, Inc

Individual Signatories

Christopher Atchison
Stephen Baker
Andrew Begel
Michael Brown
Todd Campbell
Michelle Cirillo
Oscar Cohen
Louise Dechovitz
Chris Dede
Barbara Di Eugenio
Sydnee Dickson
David Escoffery
Howard Everson
Sanaz Farhangi
Dan Farley
William Finzer
Barry Fishman
David Gorchov
Amelia Gotwals
Carrie Hall
Patricio Herbst
Christopher Hoadley
Joseph Krajcik
Ari Krakowski
Marie Kunthara
H. Chad Lane
Marcia Linn
Christine Loew
April Luehmann
Kelly MacGregor
Eve Manz
Patricia Marsteller

Audrey Martinez -Gudapakkam
Alyssa McConkey
Jan Mokros
John Mull
Dina Newman
Anne-Marie Nunez
Roy Pea
James Pellegrino
William Penuel
Donald Peurach
Terri Pigott
Stanley Presser
Mimi Recker
Brian Reiser
Gail Richmond
Pati Ruiz
Robert Sanford
Sandra Sears
Raul Sedas
Charles Sharpless
Gale Sinatra
Stephen Sireci
Nancy Songer
Philip Steigman
Tiffany Stone Wolbrecht
Martin Storksdieck
Henry Suarez
Ben Van Dusen
Moshe Vardi
Mark Warschauer
Emily Weiss
Tiffany Wolbrecht
Beverly Woolf