



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

301.634.7000
www.faseb.org

9650 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814

The Honorable Nita Lowey
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chair Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chair Shelby, and Vice Chair Leahy:


The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), representing 130,000 biological and biomedical researchers across the nation, appreciates your continued support for the scientific research and education programs funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). As you know, funding the government through a series of continuing resolutions (CRs) is highly disruptive to our nation's scientific research enterprise, forcing agencies to both withhold critical resources due to budgetary uncertainty and delay important new initiatives. We therefore respectfully ask that Congress swiftly finalize the FY 2020 budget and reiterate our recommendation that the final appropriations package include at least \$9 billion for NSF.

With its broad mandate to support fundamental research across all fields of science and engineering, NSF is the cornerstone of our nation's scientific enterprise. Fundamental discoveries funded by the agency have led to transformative technologies, including web browsers, modern weather forecasting, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).¹ It is also important to note that NSF is a critical partner of other federal science agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Agriculture, to advance medicine, enhance food supplies, contribute to a robust economy, and protect our health and environment.²

In inflation-adjusted terms, the NSF budget has not grown in 15 years.³ As a result, in 2017, \$3.8 billion in research deemed "very good" or better by NSF's merit review process was not funded due to budgetary constraints.⁴ If current funding trends continue, we risk our nation's global standing in research and we will fail to seize opportunities in new domains of science and technology such as quantum computing and artificial intelligence. The federal government must therefore renew its commitment to fundamental, discovery-based science.

Providing NSF with a budget of at least \$9 billion would be an important step towards a long-term commitment to this critical agency and enable our nation's researchers to rapidly make groundbreaking discoveries. It is our hope that Congress will be able to swiftly resolve the FY 2020 budget and provide robust support for NSF alongside the other federal science agencies. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that the United States remains at the forefront of scientific discovery and innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah V. Carey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hannah V. Carey, PhD
FASEB President

¹[Innovations Brought to you by NSF](#), National Science Foundation, 2019

²[NSF Collaborations with Federal Agencies and Others](#), National Science Foundation, 2019

³[FASEB Federal Funding Recommendations, FY 2020](#)

⁴[Report to the National Science Board on NSF's Merit Review Process](#), Fiscal Year 2017, NSB-2019-15.