



September 10, 2020

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

The American Physiological Society (APS) is pleased to endorse H.R. 8044, the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act.

When the pandemic took hold in the U.S. earlier this year, researchers were abruptly sent home from their labs. In most of the country, labs were shut down from March until June, which was essential to keep people safe. Most researchers with federal grants were able to continue paying staff and student salaries during the closures, but precious time was lost. While many labs have been able to restart their work on a limited basis in compliance with social distancing requirements, the impacts of the closures are still enormous.

APS recently conducted an [informal survey of its members](#) about how pandemic disruptions are affecting their careers and research. We found that researchers at every career stage are facing challenges in continuing their work. The emergency funding H.R. 8044 provides for early-career investigators will ensure continuity at a time when maintaining funding is a primary concern for researchers. APS recommends that the \$250 million designated for this pilot program be added to the budget of the National Science Foundation so that funding is not diverted from existing research activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda C. Samuelson".

Linda C. Samuelson, PhD  
President

*Physiology is a broad area of scientific inquiry that focuses on how molecules, cells, tissues and organs function in health and disease. The American Physiological Society connects a global, multidisciplinary community of more than 10,000 biomedical scientists and educators as part of its mission to advance scientific discovery, understand life and improve health. The Society drives collaboration and spotlights scientific discoveries through its 16 scholarly journals and programming that support researchers and educators in their work.*