



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY**

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## Floor Statement

**Statement by Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)**  
on H.R. 2225, the *National Science Foundation for the Future Act*  
June 28, 2021

The United States has long been a beacon of excellence in science and engineering. We are at a time of markedly increased global competition in research and development. However, while we should be cognizant of our increasing global competition, we must not be constrained by it. To continue to lead, we must chart our own course.

First and foremost, we must significantly boost funding for science. For years, we have allowed billions of dollars of excellent research go unfunded.

Second, we must fully leverage our STEM talent. We need to empower more women, people of color, rural students, and other underrepresented groups to contribute.

Finally, we must ensure the benefits of science are widely shared. We are at a critical juncture in our nation's history, and we need to be more focused on the role of science in our society. Science and technology are powerful tools for helping to solve society's most pressing challenges. But as this pandemic has demonstrated, some communities and their needs have long been overlooked. We must give voice to a wider range of stakeholders in guiding scientific research.

For more than seven decades, the National Science Foundation has played a critical role in supporting research. Many of the innovations that have fueled American prosperity and security would not have been possible without NSF-funded science.

As we look to the agency's future, we must seize this opportunity to build upon and leverage its strengths. I believe this legislation does exactly that.

After a decade of flat funding, H.R. 2225 provides a much-needed increase in funding. The bill sets NSF on a path for steady sustainable growth. The bill addresses challenges at all levels of STEM education and training. It supports activities and partnerships to broaden participation in NSF-funded projects. Finally, this bill establishes a new directorate to accelerate progress on emerging technologies and advance research-driven solutions to societal challenges like climate change and inequality.

This bill is the result of over a year and a half of close, bipartisan collaboration. The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held multiple hearings and markups to inform its

development. We incorporated feedback from dozens of stakeholder groups, policy experts, and thought leaders. And this is reflected in the fact that the bill has been endorsed by 50 scientific societies, universities, and industry associations.

I want to thank Ranking Member Lucas for his partnership in developing this legislation. I also want to thank his staff, in particular Jennifer Wickre and Catherine Johnson, for their contributions. On my own staff, I'd like to thank Dahlia Sokolov and Sara Barber for all of their hard work on this bill. And I also want to thank Speaker Pelosi's staff, Kenneth Russell DeGraff and Reva Price, for helping to get this bill to the floor today.