



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

Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chairwoman

Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Statement for the Record on the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute for H.R.
2225, the “National Science Foundation for the Future Act”

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

I am pleased to offer this amendment in the nature of a substitute for the *National Science Foundation for the Future Act* along with Ranking Member Lucas. Before I explain the amendment, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their thoughtful engagement and enthusiastic support for strengthening the National Science Foundation throughout this process.

The *NSF for the Future Act* substitute amendment, like the introduced bill, is a comprehensive reauthorization for the NSF. It authorizes 5 years of appropriations for all of NSF’s accounts. In total, the amendment authorizes \$73 billion over 5 years, allowing for growth that is both ambitious and sustainable. After a decade of stagnant funding, this legislation unleashes NSF to do more of what it does best.

The substitute lays out direction for NSF’s portfolio of programs in fundamental research, STEM education at all levels, and broadening participation in STEM. It addresses long overdue needs in research infrastructure. It also provides bipartisan solutions to address research security in effective and practical ways.

The substitute also includes a bold new proposal for a Science and Engineering Solutions Directorate. The new directorate will help scale efforts to drive research-to-solutions for society’s most pressing problems, from climate change to competitiveness. Importantly, the legislation is designed to give NSF the flexibility it needs to succeed. I was pleased to see how well aligned NSF’s own proposal for a new directorate is with our legislation.

The Subcommittee on Research and Technology, under the leadership of Chairwoman Stevens and Ranking Member Waltz, held two hearings and a markup of this legislation. I want to thank the Members of the subcommittee for their thoughtful discussions and contributions to the underlying bill. The substitute also incorporates input from a wide range of stakeholders and ideas championed by Members of the Full Committee.

I also want to thank Ranking Member Lucas and his staff for developing the new provision authorizing funding for research capacity building at R2 institutions. Building more regional and institutional diversity in our research and innovation ecosystem is essential to our future competitiveness.

In closing, I want to emphasize the critical role the National Science Foundation plays in our society. Many of the transformative innovations developed over the past half century would not have been possible without the foundation of scientific discovery supported by NSF. As we look to the agency's future, we can be bold in a way that builds upon that legacy of achievement. I believe this legislation does exactly that.

I have been pleased with the tremendous support we have received from the broad stakeholder community, and I look forward to your continued support as we move toward conference with the Senate. I am proud of this bill, and the transparent, bipartisan, and deliberative process that continues to make it even better. I thank Ranking Member Lucas for his partnership in this effort, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.