



## Speaker McCarthy's Default on America Act: A Major Threat to U.S. Competitiveness

On April 19, 2023, Speaker McCarthy released the Default on America Act, a Republican scheme that would hold the full faith and credit of America hostage unless unprecedented cuts are made to key federal programs.

These draconian funding cuts would have grave impacts for America's innovation Agencies including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Department of Energy (DOE), National Science Foundation (NSF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Weather Service (NWS).

**“Republicans have said their top priority is to strengthen our ability to compete with China—this scheme will do the opposite by surrendering our leadership in science and innovation to China.** After years of bipartisan efforts to increase support for our federal research and development programs, this extreme Republican scheme will slash U.S. R&D. This will cost Americans their jobs, concede technological leadership to China, hamstring climate solutions, raise energy costs, and off-shore manufacturing operations. The American people deserve better.”-[Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren \(D-CA\)](#)

**Based on Federal science agency [feedback](#), Speaker McCarthy's cuts would result in workforce reduction of 10,000's of scientists, engineers, researchers, and contractors.**



### **The Default on America Act will cripple the United States Space Exploration Program and cede U.S. leadership in aeronautics and astronautics.**

[NASA says:](#) *A reduction of this magnitude would threaten NASA's ability to continue making critical advancements in all Science disciplines, and threaten NASA's international leadership in areas of National priority.*

[Aerospace Industries Association \(AIA\) notes:](#) *Our global economic leadership in aircraft design is being challenged by China and other nations, and NASA's aeronautics research is vital to confronting that challenge.*

### **The Default on America Act will put U.S. national security at risk and surrender our clean energy future.**

#### **DOE says:**

- *Impacts would be felt across the country and could rise to the level of jeopardizing the Department's ability to do its part in protecting national security interests from energy security and nuclear security threats.*
- *Reductions of this magnitude would have significant setbacks of U.S. geopolitical competitiveness to adversarial nations like Russia and China.*

### **The Default on America Act will counteract the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act and hand tech leadership to China.**

#### **NSF says:**

- *Reducing the FY 2023 Enacted levels by 22% would lead to approximately 4,600 fewer awards and approximately 66,000 people who could not be supported in their pursuit of STEM.*
- *The reduction in NSF funding would impede discoveries in biomanufacturing, cybermanufacturing, eco manufacturing, semiconductor manufacturing, and quantum manufacturing, which the U.S. needs in order to compete globally in manufacturing, to create and maintain U.S.-based jobs in manufacturing, and to enable technologies in other emerging industries to fully impact society.*

### **The Default on America Act will weaken weather and climate forecasting abilities and put American lives at risk.**

[NOAA says:](#) *[The scenario would] Degrade NOAA's ability to operate the aircraft that are vital to support the National Weather Service's ability to issue the most accurate weather forecasts, watches and warnings, especially severe weather events like hurricanes.*

*Prepared by Democratic Staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*