



Office of the President
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506 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801-3689

Timothy L. Killeen
President

April 4, 2024

Dear Illinois congressional delegation members:

I am writing to express the University of Illinois System's deep concerns about the 5 percent cut that was recently imposed on the National Science Foundation (NSF) budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

As you know, the U of I System has long been a leading recipient of grant funding from NSF, with more than \$164 million in NSF research expenditures in FY2023. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign leads many large-scale NSF-sponsored research projects that are addressing grand challenges, including an Engineering Research Center ([POETS](#)), a Quantum Leap Challenge Institute ([HQAN](#)), a Materials Research Science and Engineering Center ([I-MRSEC](#)), a Science and Technology Center ([QCB](#)) and three AI Institutes.

Having spent four years as assistant director for geosciences at NSF, I can personally attest to the fact that the agency is the cornerstone of America's basic research enterprise. By supporting merit-based fundamental research across disciplines at universities throughout the nation, NSF plays a major role in ensuring that the United States remains at the forefront of science and innovation. NSF-supported research has enabled groundbreaking discoveries and novel technologies throughout its nearly 75-year history.

Congress recognized the crucial role that NSF plays in advancing innovation and competitiveness when it passed the CHIPS and Science Act in 2022. Unfortunately, funding for NSF is far below the levels authorized in that legislation. While the CHIPS and Science Act authorized \$15.65 billion for NSF in FY2024, Congress appropriated just over \$9 billion.

We appreciate the challenging fiscal environment you face and are grateful for your advocacy on behalf of U of I System priorities. As Congress begins the FY2025 appropriations process, we hope you will support a much-needed funding increase for existing NSF programs. Along with the rest of the research community, we will be requesting at least \$11.9 billion for FY2025.

I hope we can partner together to build strong bipartisan support for NSF and raise its profile in the halls of Congress. I look forward to working with you on this in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Timothy L. Killeen