

May 29, 2024

Dear Member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation:

We write on behalf of Illinois' institutions of higher education, businesses and nonprofits to underscore the importance of federal support for science, and to urge you to advocate for robust funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

In FY2023, NSF invested over \$356 million in the state of Illinois for research, entrepreneurship and STEM education. These investments allow our institutions to make cutting-edge discoveries in areas ranging from quantum to biotechnology to clean energy. NSF seed funding also provides vital support for small businesses and startups through the SBIR/STTR programs; Illinois companies have received 67 SBIR/STTR awards from 2019-2023. And, with about a quarter of U.S. workers employed in STEM occupations, NSF education and workforce funding helps ensure that Illinois can meet the need for a trained, diverse STEM workforce.

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, a 5% cut from NSF's base budget in FY2023.

While we appreciate the fiscal challenges facing this country, federal investments in research and innovation are vital to our state. With your support, NSF will continue to fund the new knowledge, startups and trained scientists and engineers that drive economic growth in Illinois and across the country.

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of our state.

Respectfully,

The University of Illinois System
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Intersect Illinois
P33
Illinois Manufacturers' Association
Illinois Railroad Association
World Business Chicago
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
mHUB Chicago
John Deere
Illinois Science and Technology Coalition
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Illinois Springfield
Northwestern University

Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges
and Universities
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of
Chicago
Current
QDIR, Inc.
Rhaeos
TERRY VENTURES, LLC
TCCI Manufacturing
PSYONIC, Inc.
Alcorix Co.
Stemloop, Inc.
Volexion
Kaizen Technologies
BiomeSense

University of Chicago
Loyola University Chicago
Illinois Institute of Technology
Parkland College
North Central College
Benedictine University
Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago
Governors State University
Northern Illinois University
Roosevelt University
Augustana College
Eastern Illinois University
Western Illinois University
Wheaton College
Xavier University
Southern Illinois University System
Discovery Partners Institute

Field Museum
MeshPlusPlus, Inc
Metropolitan Family Services
Iris Light Technologies
Kazadi Enterprises
HIRE360
Evergreen Climate Innovations
Clayco
EarthSense, Inc.
Champaign County Economic Development Corporation
Economic Development Corporation of Decatur-Macon County
Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance
Society of Woman Engineers
Greater Peoria Economic Development Council