

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 25, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

As Congress continues to work on additional legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you address the challenges faced by the scientific research community and work toward the enactment of \$3 billion in emergency relief for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Thanks to your leadership, Congress appropriated \$75 million in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the NSF to support new research addressing multiple aspects of the coronavirus through the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant funding mechanism. The NSF has awarded more than 900 grants to researchers across the country to address a wide range of questions surrounding the pandemic. Bringing together diverse disciplines of science – from computer science to biology to behavioral science – the NSF has proven to be an effective frontline agency in our nation’s efforts to respond to and recover from the pandemic.

While our nation’s scientists and research institutions have risen to the challenge of the pandemic, they are facing enormous strains to their operations and infrastructure. Federally funded scientists and engineers are experiencing significant negative impacts to their work during the pandemic, such as delays or cessation of their research projects, lab closures, and uncertainty about continuing to pay salaries, extend timelines, access needed lab equipment, and more. These impacts have disproportionately affected students, trainees, and early-career researchers, who make up an important segment of NSF award recipients. Without emergency relief, we risk losing the return on the investments that we have already made in the careers of U.S. scientists, the science they advance, and the research infrastructure that supports them.

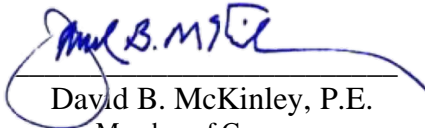
To give the NSF the funding it needs to support its researchers at this critical time and avoid the potential loss of important innovations, we urge the inclusion of supplemental appropriations that will address these negative impacts and preserve our vital NSF research infrastructure.

We appreciate your leadership during this difficult time as Congress continues to respond to the wide-ranging fallout from this pandemic. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
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André Carson  
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Jason Crow  
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Barbara Lee  
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Daniel W. Lipinski  
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Stephen F. Lynch  
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