



The American Chemical Society's Message to Congress

“Keep Science Funding Strong for FY 2020”

- Science research, whether conducted in the private sector, at a university or within a federal agency or laboratory, requires predictability and a sustained effort to produce positive results.
- I welcomed the bipartisan cooperation that ended the partial shutdown, completed Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations and to demonstrated support for federal scientific research.
- I hope Congress can cooperate to find a path forward that will raise the budget caps for both defense and non-defense discretionary spending.
- I strongly urge you to continue working together to provide strong and robust funding levels for scientific research in the FY 2020 appropriations process. Specifically, I ask that you consider my requests for a few specific programs.

U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB)

- For FY 2020, I strongly urge Congress to not defund the CSB as outlined in the administration's FY 2020 budget request.
- The CSB is currently funded at \$12 million a year. The agency has requested \$12.4 million to hire additional staff to expedite investigations.
- The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the agency's board members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.
- The CSB conducts root cause investigations of chemical accidents at fixed industrial facilities. Root causes are usually deficiencies in safety management systems, but can be any factor that would have prevented the accident if that factor had not occurred. Other accident causes often involve equipment failures, human errors, unforeseen chemical reactions, or other hazards. The agency does not issue fines or citations, but does make recommendations to plants, regulatory agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), industry organizations, and labor groups. Congress designed the CSB to be non-regulatory and independent of other agencies so that its investigations might, where appropriate, review the effectiveness of regulations and regulatory enforcement.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

- For FY 2020, I urge Congress to provide strong support for NIST's Scientific and Technical Research and Services program, by increasing funding by \$41 million over

FY19. This would advance research in vital areas including cybersecurity, disaster resilience, the internet of things, artificial intelligence and measurement science.

- Additionally, due to the aging of NIST facilities and their importance to provide critical services to industry, I hope that Congress can provide \$150 million for the NIST construction account.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- I urge Congress to provide at least \$9 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF) for FY2020
- I also ask Congress to maintain its longstanding commitment to the diversity of research disciplines NSF supports, each of which contributes in profound ways, advancing our nation's domestic interests and global competitiveness. Our recommendation for \$9 billion for NSF in FY 2020 takes into account that basic research is unfortunately underfunded – in FY2017 nearly \$4 billion of researched rated “very good or higher” by NSF’s merit criteria was unfunded.
- For example, the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate is essential to efforts to train the scientists, engineers, and larger STEM workforce that maintain U.S. competitiveness. Within this, EHR also works to broaden participation in STEM fields, ensuring a vibrant, effective research community by including traditionally underrepresented groups.

Department of Energy’s Office of Science

- I urge Congress to increase funding for the DOE’s Office of Science to \$7 billion in FY 2020, an increase of 4 percent real growth above the FY 2019 enacted levels. This level of funding will enable the Office of Science to: support and advance scientific research programs that are essential to our economic growth, energy and national security; support training for the next generation of American scientific and engineering research talent; continue to build world-class scientific tools and facilities; and support the network of the DOE National Laboratories.

Supplemental Asks

In addition to these important funding requests, I hope that you can support the following bills:

- H.R. 1396, the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act
 - Awards four Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, who inspired the film Hidden Figures, and a fifth medal to recognize all the women who contributed to NASA’s success in the space race.
 - Acknowledging the role of historic figures unrecognized in their time is important for elevating today’s underrepresented minorities.

- Thank Senators for supporting S. 590, the Senate version of the Hidden Figures Act
- H.R. 36 or S. 1067, Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act
 - The bills call for research to better understand the causes and consequences of sexual harassment in STEM fields.
 - Establish an interagency working group for the purpose of coordinating Federal science agency efforts to reduce the prevalence of sexual harassment.
- Encourage a bipartisan reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA)
 - HEA provides federal funding for universities, scholarships and student loans. It is overdue for reauthorization since 2015.
 - It's important that any reauthorization:
 - Ensures investment in high quality teacher training in the STEM fields;
 - Expands and diversifies the STEM student and teacher pipeline by increasing access for traditionally underrepresented populations;
 - Strengthens graduate research opportunities by investing in research experiences and encouraging collaboration with industry, academic institutions and government agencies.
- Request Support for H.R. 2051 or S. 999, Sustainable Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2019
 - Legislation creates interagency panel to coordinate federal sustainable chemistry efforts, supports public-private partnerships, and boosts investment in federal research.
 - Sustainable and green chemistry reduce hazardous waste by developing chemical processes and products to prevent pollution in the first place. It encourages sustainable thinking from start to finish in the chemistry enterprise.