



March 31, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McCarthy, Schumer, and McConnell:

The American Physiological Society (APS) thanks Congress for advancing legislation that strongly supports the scientific research enterprise, a crucial component of U.S. global competitiveness. The U.S. Innovation and Competition Act/America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing Pre-Eminence in Technology and Economic Strength (COMPETES) Act would provide the National Science Foundation (NSF) with substantially increased authorized funding levels. Increasing the NSF budget will allow the agency and the scientific community to take on new challenges and support many more well-deserving projects. **APS supports passage of the highest possible authorized budget levels for NSF.**

#### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

APS applauds efforts to strengthen the scientific workforce through broadened participation and previously supported the following standalone measures that were included in one or both versions of the legislation: the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act, STEM Opportunities Act, MSI STEM Achievement Act and Combatting Sexual Harassment in STEM Act. **APS encourages inclusion of these sections in the final legislation.**

#### Technology Directorate

The proposed technology-focused directorate at NSF that would accelerate the application of basic and translational research is well within the agency's mission "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense; and for other purposes." It is critical that this newly expanded portfolio not come at the expense of the agency's portfolio of fundamental research and training support. **Within the new directorate, APS recommends that awards be made based on the NSF merit review process, which has a decades-long record of success.**



### Research Security and International Collaboration

APS recognizes the need to protect U.S. investment, intellectual property, and national security. At the same time, the ability for scientists to collaborate both domestically and internationally is key to advancing science for the benefit of all. International STEM students and workers contribute to our research enterprise, economy and society, and regulations should be developed in a way that avoids stifling collaboration. As new regulatory requirements are put in place, it is important for such measures to be easily navigable by scientists, and as uniform as possible across research-funding agencies, thereby reducing the administrative and regulatory burden on investigators so that they are able to conduct research more efficiently.

### Access to research results

Section 2527 of USICA (S.1260) requires extramural research funding agencies to develop policies within one year that would mandate free online public access to final peer-reviewed manuscripts “not later than 12 months after publication in peer-reviewed journals, preferably sooner, or as adjusted under established mechanisms.” As a publisher of scientific journals, APS supports efforts to provide access to scholarly publications, and all APS journal articles, regardless of funding source, are free to access after 12 months. In addition, APS has been innovative in developing additional ways to increase public access to publications, launching a new open access journal and providing options for authors to provide immediate public access to their work in the traditional subscription-based journals. APS is also working with institutions across the country to develop an innovative membership and publication agreement entitled “Read, Publish, Join” that allows authors from member institutions to access and publish in APS journals for free. **APS urges Congress to maintain the current 12-month public access requirements for federally funded research and continue to actively engage with the publishing community to ensure that expanding access to the results of scientific research is done in a sustainable manner for researchers and scholarly societies like the APS.**

Thank you for considering our input. We encourage the conference committee to find a bipartisan path forward so that this legislation can be passed into law.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pollock, PhD, FAPS  
President

Scott Steen, CAE, FASAE  
Executive Director

*Physiology is a broad area of scientific inquiry that focuses on how molecules, cells, tissues and organs function in health and disease. The American Physiological Society connects a global, multidisciplinary community of more than 10,000 biomedical scientists and educators as part of its mission to advance scientific discovery, understand life and improve health. The Society drives collaboration and spotlights scientific discoveries through its 16 scholarly journals and programming that support researchers and educators in their work.*