

**Statement of Juliane Baron, Executive Director
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences**

FY 2022 Appropriations for the National Science Foundation

submitted for the record to the

**United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies**

**Honorable Matt Cartwright, Chairman
Honorable Robert B. Aderholt, Ranking Member**

April 29, 2021

Chairman Cartwright, Ranking Member Aderholt, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) is grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony for the record in support of the National Science Foundation (NSF) budget for fiscal year (FY) 2022. FABBS represents twenty-seven scientific societies and over sixty university departments whose members and faculty share a commitment to advancing knowledge of the mind, brain, and behavior. As a leading member of the Coalition for National Science Funding, **FABBS joins the broader scientific community in urging Congress to fund NSF with at least \$10 billion in FY 2022.**

Our members are grateful that NSF received \$75 million in the CARES Act and \$600 million in the American Rescue Plan. These appropriations have already led to important insights related to the COVID-19 pandemic, while helping to alleviate the research interruptions caused by the public health crisis and fund timely research critical to helping our country slow the spread of COVID-19. NSF has made more than 1,000 awards totaling over \$200 million to address questions related to the pandemic and its long-term consequences.

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, NSF and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine established the Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN) to provide actionable responses to urgent policy questions. Consulting leading researchers in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, SEAN has published guidance to inform more effective public health policy.¹ As the nation recovers from such a disruptive period in history, we have the opportunity to learn from the experience and emerge stronger.

Behavioral and social scientists are producing tools for policymakers, educators, and the general public to cope with and recover from the unprecedented circumstances of the past year. They are developing strategies to get students back on track, delineating best practices for public health communication, and advancing knowledge to foster resilience in the face of collective trauma and

¹ <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/societal-experts-action-network>

sustained periods of stress. Robust investment in basic science in FY22 is vital to accelerating the pandemic recovery and maintaining American leadership in research and development.

NSF-funded research pays long-term dividends in health, national security, and the innovation and technologies driving our economy. In addition, NSF research and programs will provide the tools to develop a workforce equipped for the challenges and technologies of the future and foster the next generation of scientists - with a commitment to broad participation – whose work will keep this country at the forefront of discovery.

One out of every four basic research projects at higher learning institutions across the United States is supported by the NSF. Due to budget constraints, however, NSF must decline thousands of qualified proposals, of which nearly \$3 Billion dollars' worth are rated very good. NSF Director Panchanathan has indicated that proposals that do receive funding could produce better research outcomes and provide better value by increasing the size and duration of grants. In fact, he has said that NSF could double their budget on the current research and researchers that go unfunded, and “a quadrupling of the funding is just barely enough to be able to take us to all the ideas being unleashed so that we might be far ahead of the competition.”

FABBS scientists have a particular interest in the Social, Behavioral and Economics (SBE) Sciences directorate, which provides an estimated 62 percent of the federal funding for fundamental research in SBE sciences at academic institutions across the country.² Thus, our fields are heavily dependent on the NSF to inform discoveries from expanding our understanding of the mechanisms of memory underlying brain activity, to contributing to the design and assessing the social and ethical consequences of new technologies. SBE is home to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), a federal statistical agency that provides statistical information about the United States' science and engineering (S&E) enterprise. NCSES collects, analyzes, and disseminates data on research and development (R&D), the S&E workforce, the condition and progress of science, STEM education, and U.S. competitiveness in science, engineering, and technology R&D.

In addition to receiving support from SBE, FABBS members appreciate critical funding from the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate (CISE), which funds research on topics such as human-technology interaction and cyber-assisted learning, the Biological Sciences (BIO) Directorate, which funds research on topics such as sleep and circadian rhythms and sex differences in responses to stress, and the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate, which funds research on increasing America's human capital through effective education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

FABBS is grateful for the strong bipartisan support to re-invigorate federal research and development at a time when our global competitors are looking to surpass American investments. Members of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee have introduced the NSF for the Future Act, which would double NSF funding over 5 years. The bipartisan Endless Frontier Act would authorize \$100 billion over 5 years. It is clear that increasing federal support for the NSF is vital to the future health, security, and economic well-being of our nation.

² https://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2021/pdf/28_fy2021.pdf

Unfortunately, funding for the NSF has remained stagnant over the past decade, despite established bipartisan and bicameral support for the NSF, including essential contributions to prevent and address COVID-19, spark economic growth, and strengthen national security; and despite indications that the U.S. has lost standing in international competitiveness.

We recognize that Congress must balance competing budget priorities while working to deliver a robust recovery from the pandemic. To that end, increasing federal investment in fundamental scientific research across all sciences is critical to successfully managing the pandemic recovery and ensuring the future prosperity, security, and health of our nation and its people. **We urge you to provide NSF with at least \$10 billion for FY 2022.** Along with the broader scientific community, we believe that increased funding for fundamental scientific research would set the NSF on a path to yield transformative benefits to the country. We thank you in advance for your commitment to robust funding in FY 2022 and efforts to complete the budget in a timely manner.

Thank you for considering this request.

FABBS Member Societies:

Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, American Psychosomatic Society, Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback, Association for Behavior Analysis International, Behavior Genetics Association, Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Cognitive Science Society, International Congress of Infant Studies, International Society for Developmental Psychobiology, Massachusetts Neuropsychological Society, National Academy of Neuropsychology, The Psychonomic Society, Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, Society for Computation in Psychology, Society for Judgement and Decision Making, Society for Mathematical Psychology, Society for Psychophysiological Research, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Society for Research in Child Development, Society for Research in Psychopathology, Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Society for Text & Discourse, Society of Experimental Social Psychology, Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology, Vision Sciences Society

FABBS Affiliates:

APA Division 1: The Society for General Psychology; APA Division 3: Experimental Psychology; APA Division 7: Developmental Psychology; APA Division 28: Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse; Arizona State University; Binghamton University; Boston University; California State University, Fullerton; Carnegie Mellon University; Columbia University; Cornell University; Duke University; East Tennessee State University; Florida International University; Florida State University; George Mason University; George Washington University; Georgetown University; Georgia Institute of Technology; Harvard University; Indiana University Bloomington; Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis; Johns Hopkins University; Kent State University; Lehigh University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Michigan State University; New York University; North Carolina State University; Northeastern University; Northwestern University; The Ohio State University, Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences; Pennsylvania State University; Princeton University; Purdue University; Rice University;

Southern Methodist University; Stanford University; Syracuse University; Temple University; Texas A&M University; Tulane University; University of Arizona; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Davis; University of California, Irvine; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Riverside; University of California, San Diego; University of Chicago; University of Colorado, Boulder; University of Delaware; University of Houston; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Iowa; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Massachusetts Amherst; University of Michigan; University of Minnesota; University of Minnesota, Institute of Child Development; University of North Carolina at Greensboro; University of Pennsylvania; University of Pittsburgh; University of Texas at Austin; University of Texas at Dallas; University of Washington; Vanderbilt University; Virginia Tech; Wake Forest University; Washington University in St. Louis; Yale University