Chairwoman Shaheen, Ranking Member Moran, 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 2025 (FY25). FABBS represents twenty-nine scientific societies and nearly 60 university departments whose members and faculty share a commitment to advancing knowledge of the mind, brain, and behavior. FABBS urges the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science to fund NSF with at least $11.9 billion in FY25. This request is consistent with the broad scientific community as represented by the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) - an alliance of over 140 professional organizations, universities and businesses supporting the goal of increasing national investment in NSF – of which FABBS serves as a cochair.

Adequate funding for NSF is critical to ensure the health and productivity of our American scientific and innovation ecosystem. While aware of the difficult fiscal climate, FABBS argues that NSF-funded research pays long-term dividends in technologies and advances driving our economy, national security, well-being, and other areas of significant importance to our nation. In addition, NSF research and programs 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.

In 2022, Congress passed the bipartisan and bicameral CHIPS and Science Act (P.L. 117-167), reauthorizing NSF for five years, including $16.7 billion for the agency in FY25. And yet, the FY24 level was cut by more than five percent (almost $500 million) from FY23. When including FY23 supplemental funding, the cut is even more significant further interrupting the Congressional vision for the NSF necessary for the U.S. to remain competitive internationally.

Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

FABBS scientists have a particular interest in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences. SBE provides an estimated 63 percent of the federal funding for fundamental research in SBE sciences at academic institutions across the country. Thus, our
fields are heavily dependent on the NSF to enable advances from expanding our understanding of the mechanisms of memory underlying brain activity, to contributing to the design of and assessing the social and ethical consequences of new technologies.

Findings from the brain and behavioral sciences have extensive reach and applicability. For example, SBE funded researchers studying violent extremism delivered new insights that the national security community is now using to develop more effective strategies to disrupt, recruit, and counter radicalism.

SBE houses the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), a federal 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. Science and Engineering Indicators, the most comprehensive source of this high-quality federal data in a global context, depends on NCSES data. The National Science Board is currently considering new and improved ways to share key data with policymakers, educators, and the public including an interactive dashboard and more timely thematic reports.

In addition to receiving support from SBE, FABBS members appreciate critical funding from the Directorate for STEM Education (EDU). Research in the Directorate focuses on increasing America’s human capital through effective education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. EDU is especially vital to expanding participation in science through programs such as S-STEM, which provides scholarships to enable low-income students with academic ability, talent, or potential to pursue successful careers in promising STEM fields. The Directorates for Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate (CISE), which funds research on topics such as human-technology interaction and cyber-assisted learning, and the Biological Sciences (BIO), which conducts research on topics such as sleep and circadian rhythms and sex differences in responses to stress also provide valuable resources for our disciplines.

**Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships**

When NSF officially launched the Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) in March of 2022, the community viewed it as an exciting cross-cutting approach to translate basic research to make a difference in American’s lives. By building on existing multidisciplinary programs, such as the Convergence Accelerator, TIP aspires to integrate the expertise of all NSF directorates to advance new use-inspired research. However, the enthusiasm for TIP was informed by the promise and expectation that the NSF budget would see a growth trajectory. Congress has the opportunity to help NSF recover from the cuts in FY24 and to deliver on meaningful budget increases in FY25.

FABBS is grateful for language in the FY24 appropriations report: “In developing the spending plan, the agreement encourages NSF to equitably distribute funding to support all basic research directorates within R&RA, as well as the Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Directorate.”
It is imperative that the rest of NSF see sustainable growth to continue the forefront research to meet key national challenges. Even before the launch of the TIP and other new programs authorized in CHIPS and Science NSF was unable to fund more than $1.7 billion worth of research proposals rated “very good or higher” each fiscal year. New efforts can only be successful when built on a strong foundational research enterprise that supports education, programs, and infrastructure to sustain our science and technology ecosystem. Substantial, sustained funding increases will allow NSF to realize the full potential of the TIP directorate by investing in critical new programs while bolstering the existing investments in basic research – including in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences – which underly future societal, economic, and technological advances.

Increasing federal investment in fundamental scientific research across all sciences is essential to ensuring the future prosperity, security, and health of our nation and its people. We urge you to provide NSF with at least $11.9 billion for FY25. 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 FY25 and efforts to complete the budget in a timely manner.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

**FABBS Member Societies:**


**FABBS Affiliates:**

American University; Arizona State University; Binghamton University; Boston College; Boston University; Carnegie Mellon University; Duke University; Drexel University; East Tennessee State University; Florida International University; George Mason University; George Washington University; Georgetown University; Harvard University; Indiana University Bloomington; Johns Hopkins University; Lehigh University; New Mexico State University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Michigan State University; New York University; North Carolina State University; The Ohio State University, Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences; Pennsylvania State University; Princeton University; Purdue University; Rice University;
Southern Methodist University; Syracuse University; Temple University; Texas A&M University; Tulane University; University of Arizona; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Irvine; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Riverside; University of California, San Diego; University of Chicago; University of Cincinnati; University of Delaware; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Iowa; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Michigan; University of Minnesota; University of Minnesota, Institute of Child Development; University of North Carolina at Greensboro; University of Oregon; University of Pennsylvania; University of Texas at Austin; University of Texas at Dallas; University of Virginia; University of Washington; Virginia Tech; Wake Forest University; Washington University in St. Louis; Western Kentucky University; Yale University