



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Nikema Williams
U.S. House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Williams:

On behalf of Emory University, I would like to express my strong support for the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act that recently passed the Senate. This bipartisan legislation shows the importance of federal investment in basic research and the vital need to remain competitive as the leading country in the world in science, technology, medicine, and innovation. This is especially important in Atlanta, where we have outstanding research universities and a thriving innovation ecosystem.

As the legislation was expanded on the Senate floor, I appreciate that the final bill incorporates the core provisions of the original Endless Frontier Act, which will add substantial research funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Endless Frontier Act's bold investments in the NSF will help ensure that the United States stays at the forefront of global scientific advancement. The bill creates new programs within the NSF to spur faster technology transfer from academic research into commercial applications, which will benefit our economy and our society, especially in the Atlanta metropolitan region. In addition to authorizing the new directorate, it is imperative that Congress continues to bolster existing NSF research programs.

As the House considers companion legislation, I encourage you to improve the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act by reframing certain provisions that may limit impactful international research collaborations. Emory is strongly committed to research integrity and security policies that safeguard against undue foreign influence and protect intellectual property. Some of the provisions in the Senate bill, however, will create significant regulatory burdens and reduce our ability to attract top domestic and international research talent to Emory.

I encourage the House to advance legislation that addresses security without impinging on scientific collaboration. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

Gregory L. Fennes
President

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