

May 30, 2019

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
1208 Longworth House Office Building
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez
1023 Longworth House Office Building
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Sherrill and Gonzalez:

The undersigned organizations write to thank you for introducing the “Securing American Science and Technology Act of 2019.” We applaud your bipartisan leadership on this timely and critically needed legislation. We strongly support the bill and urge the House of Representatives to pass it as soon as possible.

Our organizations are committed to the protection of American innovation from security threats to the U.S. research enterprise. The Securing American Science and Technology Act (SASTA) takes a proactive and sensible approach to safeguarding federally funded research and development from growing threats of foreign interference, cyberattacks, theft, and espionage. First, the legislation would require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish an interagency working group under the existing authority granted to the National Science and Technology Council. Codifying this improved coordination between the federal science and security agencies into law would address significant challenges in the development of common definitions and effective reporting requirements. It will also help streamline guidelines and harmonize policies across multiple government entities.

Second, the bill would ensure that federal science and security agencies also have a mechanism to engage directly with the academic community as well as industry partners. Direct stakeholder engagement is essential if the United States is to effectively address security threats to its research enterprise. By establishing a new National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) “Science, Technology, and Security Roundtable,” the legislation ensures that the research community can provide input as the government works towards the proper balance of security and the open exchange of scientific information and knowledge. The free flow of talent has and continues to be vital to the advancement of American science and innovation. Additionally, the NASEM Roundtable will establish a much-needed forum for universities and national laboratories to share effective practices and procedures with one another.

Thank you for working to address this critical set of issues in a bipartisan manner. We are deeply appreciative of your efforts to engage the higher education and research community in the protection of our national security.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Council on Education
American Educational Research Association
American Geophysical Union

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Psychological Association
Arizona State University
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Binghamton University
Brown University
California State University, Northridge
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland State University
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Cornell University
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Governmental Relations
Duke University
Emory University
Florida State University
Geological Society of America
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
New York University
North Dakota State University
Northwestern University
Ohio University
Oregon State University
Penn State University
Portland State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Research!America
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Research in Child Development
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Stanford University
Stony Brook University

The American Society for Cell Biology
The Ohio State University
The Optical Society (OSA)
The University of Kansas
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The University of North Carolina System
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas Tech University
Tulane University
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 California System
University of Central Florida
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Idaho
University of Illinois System
University of Iowa
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
University of Nevada Las Vegas
University of New Hampshire
University of New Mexico
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rochester
University of South Florida System
University of Tennessee
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Tech
Yale University

List updated as of 9:00am, 6/28/2019

cc: The Honorable Jim Langevin

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
The Honorable Frank Lucas