The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.
U.S. Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

February 28, 2022

Based in Maryland, the National Postdoctoral Association is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the postdoctoral experience by supporting a culture of inclusive connection. Founded in 2003, our membership is composed of more than 230 U.S. research institutions and 22,000 individual postdoctoral researchers (“postdocs”). Collectively, we represent the interests of the 70,000 postdocs training across the nation in science and research fields.

On behalf of the NPA, I write today to urge you to provide the National Science Foundation (NSF) with at least $10 billion for FY22 activities.

Without sufficient funding in FY22, NSF cannot launch, among other critical efforts:

- essential new efforts, including programs that advance geographic diversity and leverage the talents and insights of the full breadth of American diversity including among postdocs
- a new Directorate of Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships to bridge the gap between basic research and economy-driving commercial innovation, and
- STEM programs to broaden participation in the STEM workforce and ensure that all students and postdocs have pathways into the modern innovation economy.

Continuing resolutions are hurtful to the American research enterprise. Stopgap funding stifles scientific progress by restricting funds on the front end and dilutes the impact of taxpayers’ dollars on the back end. We urge lawmakers to reach a deal as soon as possible.

Considering recent inflation and our need for R&D leadership, anything less than a $10 billion appropriation will result in a loss of purchasing power and research investment, precisely at the same time that the Congress and Administration have emphasized the importance of increasing R&D investments to tackle major societal challenges, prepare for future disasters, and position America to better compete in the 21st century.

Providing a national voice and seeking positive change for postdoctoral scholars
www.nationalpostdoc.org
Bipartisan support for the United States Innovation and Competition Act in the Senate and the NSF for the Future Act in the House make clear the broad consensus that now is the time to invest in research. Failing to follow through on those commitments with strong funding will show Americans, our allies and competitors that the U.S. is not serious about growing our leadership role on these issues.

On behalf of the 70,000 scientists and researchers and hundreds of universities and research institutions across the nation with postdocs, thank you for your action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Kimbis
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer