

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 Dental Research  
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 Institute of Biological Sciences  
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  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
Binghamton University  
Brown University  
California State University, Northridge  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland State University  
Coalition for the Life Sciences  
Computing Research Association  
Cornell University  
Consortium for Ocean Leadership  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council on Governmental Relations  
Duke University  
Ecological Society of America  
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  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
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  
Sigma Xi The Scientific Research Honor Society  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
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 4:00pm, 7/9/2019*

cc: The Honorable Jim Langevin  
The Honorable Elise Stefanik  
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
The Honorable Frank Lucas