

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 29, 2008

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman  
Budget Committee  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Ranking Member  
Budget Committee  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt and Ranking Member Ryan:

As New Democrats, always leaders on the economy and technological innovation, we are writing to ask that you include desperately needed funding in the FY 2009 Budget Resolution that will support research and development today, and inspire a new generation of scientists, doctors and entrepreneurs tomorrow. First and foremost, we ask that the FY 2009 Budget Resolution allocate sufficient resources to accommodate the programs authorized in the America COMPETES Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-69).

In enacting the America COMPETES Act last year, Congress and the President recognized a long-held New Dem principle: that investing in basic scientific research and education – especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) – is critical to our nation's ability to compete in a global marketplace and maintain a highly skilled American workforce.

Failure by Congress and the President to allocate sufficient resources to accommodate the programs authorized in the America COMPETES Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-69) will hamper our global scientific leadership. Our failure would also risk loss of the cutting edge technological innovations that Americans are depending on to drive our economic future, ensure our national security, and revolutionize health care.

It is now time to make good on the commitment made in last year in the America COMPETES Act. Full implementation of the Act's provisions in FY09 will require substantial increases in the major functional categories for science and education.

For Functional Category 250 (General Science, Space and Technology), in addition to the budget baseline including inflation, we request an increase of at least \$1.566 billion for America COMPETES Act programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Energy.

For Functional Category 370 (Commerce and Housing Credit), in addition to the budget baseline including inflation, we request an increase of at least \$208.6 million for America COMPETES Act programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

For Functional Category 500 (Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services), in addition to the budget baseline including inflation, we request an increase of at least \$707.9 million for America COMPETES programs at the Department of Education.

Congress must also not take for granted our nation's leadership in biomedical research. We are disappointed that the President's FY 2009 Budget again proposes flat funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). If approved, this will mean that NIH's purchasing power for conducting groundbreaking biomedical research will have decreased by approximately 13% since 2003. Congress must find the means to fund NIH at levels adequate to begin reversing this disturbing trend. At a minimum we hope that our FY 2009 budget will keep pace with the current pace of biomedical inflation of 6%.

Thank you for your support of these efforts to strengthen innovation and to support our students, teachers, and research scientists. We understand the fiscal constraints before you; however, we also believe that support for scientific research and discovery today will help ensure our economic competitiveness for generations to come by spurring innovation today.

We stand ready to work with you on this difficult, but important task. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ellen Tauscher  
Member of Congress



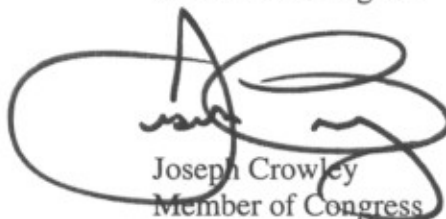
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



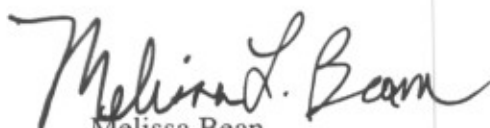
Artur Davis  
Member of Congress



Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



Jason Altmire  
Member of Congress



Melissa Bean  
Member of Congress



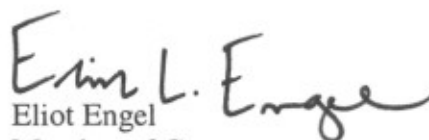
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress




Bob Etheridge  
Member of Congress



Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress



Jane Harman  
Member of Congress



Rush Holt  
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Ron Klein  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
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Tim Mahoney  
Member of Congress

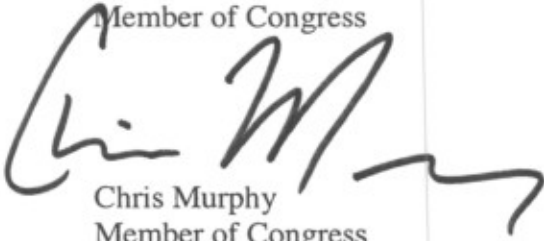


Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress



Kendrick Meek  
Member of Congress

Harry Mitchell  
Member of Congress



Chris Murphy  
Member of Congress

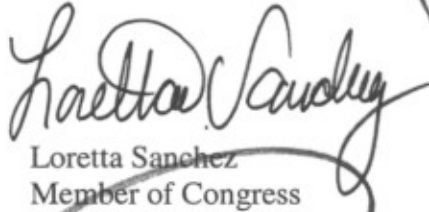


Patrick Murphy  
Member of Congress

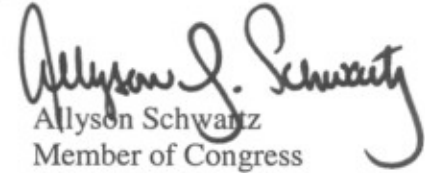
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



David Price  
Member of Congress



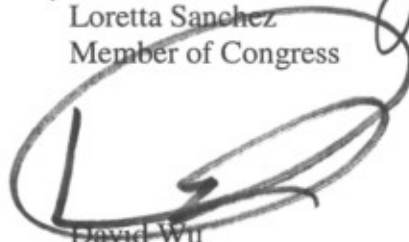
Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Allyson Schwartz  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



David Wu  
Member of Congress

Cc: Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Majority Leader Steny Hoyer