

**SHARICE DAVIDS**

**3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT, KANSAS**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS**

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

**1541 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING**

**WASHINGTON, DC 20515**

**(202) 225-2865**

**OVERLAND PARK OFFICE**

**7325 W 79<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**OVERLAND PARK, KS 66204**

**(913) 621-0832**

**KANSAS CITY OFFICE**

**753 STATE AVE, SUITE 400**

**KANSAS CITY, KS 66101**

**WWW.DAVIDS.HOUSE.GOV**

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2405 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Chair Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

In anticipation of the House unveiling its own version of the Senate-passed *United States Innovation and Competition Act* (USICA), I am writing to stress the importance of robust funding for Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) designated states, which includes Kansas.

Since its creation by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the EPSCoR program has supported competitive research and development in states that have historically received a smaller share of federal funding. While this program has helped promote groundbreaking research, EPSCoR states received just over two percent of the NSF's \$8.5 billion budget in FY2020 – a total of \$190 million. Altogether, the 28 eligible states and territories received around 10 percent of the NSF's budget for all programs in FY2020 while the five highest-receiving states were awarded roughly 40 percent of the NSF's budget.

With EPSCoR support, students in Kansas, through schools like the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Wichita State University, Fort Hays State University, and Haskell Indian Nations University, have been researching microbiomes in our water, plants, and soil to enable more sustainable food production and ecosystem protections. This funding has also allowed recipients to launch a summer internship program, a summer course for high school teachers, and more.

While both chambers have passed provisions concerning EPSCoR, the Senate's plan to set aside 20 percent of the NSF's budget for this vital program is the appropriate solution to this research disparity. USICA's robust investments in research and development and this 20 percent set-aside will continue to support states that have historically received high amounts of NSF funding while spurring innovation in underserved communities.

As you work with the Senate on passage of USICA in both chambers, I urge you to incorporate the Senate's EPSCoR provisions into the final bill. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you to bolster our nation's science and technology sectors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Davids', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Representative Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress