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May 6, 2021

The Honorable Ayanna Pressley
1108 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pressley:

On behalf of Boston University (BU), I urge you to support the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Future Act (H.R. 2225), the first comprehensive reauthorization of the NSF in over a decade.

Introduced by the bipartisan leadership of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, H.R. 2225 will revitalize the NSF by investing in cutting-edge research and providing pathways for greater diversity in the scientific enterprise. Massachusetts scientists and engineers were competitively awarded over \$550 million from NSF in fiscal year 2020, making the Commonwealth the third-largest recipient of NSF funding.

The NSF for the Future Act sets a bold agenda for the nation's premier scientific agency, which supports investigator-led, curiosity-driven research that leads to life-changing discoveries. In addition to authorizing strong funding increases for NSF over five years, H.R. 2225 expands and enhances fellowship and traineeship opportunities for future scientists, including new, dedicated resources for Minority Serving Institutions. The bill also creates a new Science and Engineering Solutions Directorate at NSF that would rapidly move research from the lab to public use. Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) says the new directorate would "[advance] solutions that will help make people's lives healthier and safer, society more equitable, and the globe more resilient to a changing climate and other threats."

Investments by NSF have led to important innovations such as Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing, which has been an essential tool in our efforts to combat the coronavirus. Boston University conducted over 1 million PCR tests this academic year to control COVID-19 transmission rates as we proceeded with on-campus learning and research and residential living. This was only possible because of the depth of knowledge in our faculty as a leading research university.

At BU, competitive grants from the NSF support a range of exciting research, including our quest to bioengineer life-saving cardiac tissue and our novel training program for scientists who want to understand the interplay between climate science and environmental health and how that translates into public policy.

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We are thrilled by the significant scientific investments and forward-thinking vision in the NSF for the Future Act. Your support for the bill will help build a new generation of scientists who are more diverse and prepared than any in our history, leading all of us into an exciting future. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Brown
President

cc: Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, House Committee on Science, Space, &
Technology
Ranking Member Frank Lucas, House Committee on Science, Space, &
Technology