



For Immediate Release
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The Science Coalition Commends President Bush's Commitment to Science Funding in FY 2008 Budget

The Science Coalition today applauded President Bush's continued commitment to spur new ideas and keep America competitive by significantly increasing funding for science research in his fiscal year 2008 budget. As part of the second year of the President's American Competitiveness Initiative, his budget calls for an increase in funding of 6.8% for the National Science Foundation (NSF). The President also proposed a 7% increase in the budget for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and a 10% increase in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

These substantial increases will provide a crucial second year of progress on the President's commitment to double the federal government's investment in science and engineering over 10 years at NSF, the Department of Energy's Office of Science and NIST. Investments in science research, most of which is carried out by America's universities, are a crucial step in continuing America's status as a leader in innovation. The new ideas that will create the industries and jobs of the future will come from investments our nation makes in research today.

The Science Coalition looks forward to working with Congress and its many congressional champions of science from both parties to enact this landmark increase. Even in tight fiscal times, a healthy research budget across all disciplines is critical to meet the many challenges in supporting America's health, economic growth, and homeland security. As Congress works toward bipartisan consensus on a broad innovation budget, we are hopeful that they address shortfalls that the President does not address in life-saving biomedical research, basic research at the Department of Defense and cutting-edge science at NASA.

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The Science Coalition is an alliance of more than 400 organizations, institutions and individuals, run by public and private universities and including Nobel Laureates, businesses, voluntary health organizations, medical groups, healthcare providers, and scientific societies -- dedicated to sustaining the federal government's historic commitment to U.S. leadership in basic science.

For more information, please visit the Coalition's website at
www.sciencecoalition.org.