The next two years represent a critical inflection point for the U.S. research enterprise. The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 suspended the debt ceiling until 2025 and mandated statutory limits on discretionary spending, including funding for scientific research.

With those limits set — and many competing priorities therein — it is critical that Congress maximizes funding allocations to support our federal research agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Energy, to propel the future of American science and innovation. Anything less will put the United States behind our opponents as geopolitical pressure increases and our global competitive edge is put further at risk.

While recognizing these decisions are tough, American voters on both sides of the aisle stand firmly behind government investment in the U.S. research enterprise.

Key takeaways from a recent national poll of U.S. voters conducted by The Science Coalition:

- Nearly eight in 10 voters approve of the federal government investing in scientific research, with strong support across parties.
- Even during constrained fiscal times, voters overwhelmingly believe it is essential that the federal government continue to invest in scientific research.

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Nearly all voters (91%) believe it is important for the U.S. to be the global leader in scientific research and technology.

Voters are concerned the U.S. is losing ground in science and technology to global competitors.

The top five contributions to scientific research, according to American voters:

- Lifesaving medicines
- Competitive workforce
- National security
- Breakthrough innovations
- Economic growth

Key takeaways:

- Nearly all voters (91%) believe it is important for the U.S. to be the global leader in scientific research and technology.
- Voters are concerned the U.S. is losing ground in science and technology to global competitors.