

outstanding leadership in supporting legislation to help families achieve the American dream of homeownership."

Center for Health, Environment and Justice—On the 20th anniversary of the Love Canal crisis in his district, Rep. LaFalce was honored "for his significant role in assisting residents to obtain justice" and for his "tireless efforts to move various agencies at all levels of government that was above and beyond the call of duty." 1998

New York Credit Union—Rep. LaFalce was awarded the "Freedom of Consumer Choice Award" by the New York Credit Union Campaign for Consumer Choice "for actively defending the rights of consumers to choose their financial institutions and for protecting the future of America's credit unions." 1998

Small Business Council of America—In recognition of his work as Chairman of the Small Business Committee, where he wrote laws creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in the small business sector, Rep. LaFalce received the "Congressional Award" from the Small Business Council of America, which read in part: "when others trample asunder the rights and best interests of small business, he steps forward and moves mountains."

Associated General Contractors (NY State Chapter)—In 1975, Rep. LaFalce had the distinction of being the first of the newly-elected Members to have a bill he authored signed into law. That bill preserved and created more than one-million construction jobs—300,000 in New York State alone. For his work, the New York State Chapter of the Associated General Contractors honored Rep. LaFalce with its annual "Man of the Year" award.

American Diabetes Association—As Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the House Diabetes Caucus, Rep. LaFalce was honored twice by the American Diabetes Association with its Valor Award in recognition of his continuing efforts to secure increased funding for diabetes research and "for his outstanding service to people with diabetes." 2000, 2002

National Multiple Sclerosis Society—Rep. LaFalce was honored as "Congressman of the Year" by the National MS Society for his "deep personal appreciation and commitment to the needs of people with MS who have lost access to breakthrough treatments because they are dependent on Medicare reimbursements." 1995

National Sleep Foundation—The National Sleep Foundation awarded Rep. LaFalce its very first Public Policy Leadership Award in 2001 for his efforts in bringing the problem of sleep disorders to the nation's attention. He secured \$125,000 in federal funds for a sleep disorder educational program to be conducted jointly by the University at Buffalo Medical School, Mount St. Mary's Hospital Sleep Disorder Center in Lewiston, and Millard Fillmore-Gates Hospital's Sleep Disorder Center in Buffalo.

National Association of Women Business Owners—Rep. LaFalce received the "Congressional Advocate of the Year" award from the National Association of Women Business Owners for his work in enacting the Women's Business Ownership Act, which expanded federal assistance programs to businesses owned by women.

New York State Association of Renewal and Housing Officials, Inc.—Rep. LaFalce was recognized by the NYSARHO "for his outstanding contributions to national housing and community development programs while serving as a member of the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development and in appreciation for his cooperation with the committees, officers, and members of this Association."

New York State Realtors—Rep. LaFalce was honored by the New York Realtors for his "consistent contributions to the development of the community by participation in civic affairs and by leadership and dedication to making America better."

Housing Agencies of New York State—Rep. LaFalce received the New York state Housing Agencies' Housing award "in recognition of and appreciation of your continued support of those programs which provide housing opportunities for low and moderate income people in the United States."

H.R. 4664

SPEECH OF

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act, H.R. 4664, which provides a 5-year reauthorization for the National Science Foundation's research and education programs.

The bill represents a bipartisan effort to provide the level of resources necessary to sustain the important work of the National Science Foundation in science and engineering research and education.

I want to congratulate Research Subcommittee Chairman SMITH and Ranking Democratic Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for their efforts to craft the bill. I also want to thank Science Committee Chairman BOEHLERT for his leadership and for working closely with this side of the aisle in developing the bill.

NSF is our premier agency for support of basic research at academic institutions in the physical sciences and the non-medical biological sciences, in mathematics, and in engineering. Basic research discoveries launch new industries that bring returns to the economy far exceeding the original public investment.

In fact, over the past 50 years, half of U.S. economic productivity can be attributed to technological innovation and the science that has supported it. Unfortunately, the simple truth is that during the 1990s we underinvested in the fields of science that NSF supports.

A recent report from the National Academy of Sciences provides specific examples that make this case. The report shows that between 1993 and 1999 federal research support at academic institutions fell by 14 percent in mathematics, by 7 percent in physics, by 2 percent in chemistry, and by 12 percent in electrical engineering.

Inadequate funding for basic research in such important fields imposes a price on society, because new ideas are lost that would otherwise underpin future technological advances.

Of even more importance, anemic funding of academic science and engineering research reduces the numbers of new young scientists and engineers, who constitute the essential element necessary to ensure the nation's future economic strength and security.

H.R. 4664 authorizes funding growth for NSF of 15 percent per year for 5 years, bringing the total authorization level to \$9.8 billion by the final year. This follows the funding path to double NSF's budget over 5 years, as was

proposed by Rep. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON in the NSF authorization bill she introduced, and I cosponsored, last year.

The funding growth proposed by H.R. 4664 will enable the Foundation to expand its investments in cutting-edge research initiatives and shore up its core research programs.

In particular, this new funding will enable NSF to increase average grant size and duration, as well as increase the number of new awards. Due to budget constraints, NSF now declines more than \$1 billion dollars worth of research applications each year that receive merit review scores as high or higher than the average score for funded applications.

The funding authorized by H.R. 4664 will also begin to address the growing imbalance in federal support for fundamental research in the physical sciences and engineering relative to the biomedical fields. This is a serious matter because, for any field of science, progress is dependent on advances made in other fields. As pointed out by the past director of the National Institutes of Health, Nobel Laureate Harold Varmus, most of the revolutionary changes that have occurred in biology and medicine are rooted in new methods that, in turn, are usually rooted in fundamental discoveries in many different fields.

For the past half-decade, we have been very free in our support of biomedical research. I consider that to be a very good thing for all of our people. However, investing too narrowly in medical fields without investing in all the other sciences—sciences that contribute to the base of knowledge necessary for medical breakthroughs—will lead to a slowdown in medical progress in the long run.

H.R. 4664 will provide the resources needed by NSF to support multidisciplinary research initiatives in such areas as nanotechnology, information technology, and the mathematical sciences. It will allow construction of new national user facilities for astronomers, computational scientists, earth and atmospheric scientists, and life scientists.

And equally important, the bill institutes new programs to strengthen science and math education in the schools and to train the scientists and engineers the nation needs for the future. Without a constant infusion of well-trained, talented young people into technically challenging fields, our country would lose its edge on the rest of the world.

H.R. 4664 incorporates many provisions from the National Mathematics and Science Partnerships Act that passed the House earlier this year. These important provisions are designed to bring more support to our K-12 science and math teachers, their students, and their schools. The overall goal is to help our children become much more proficient in science and math, and I am confident that the programs authorized by this bill will do just that.

I would particularly like to highlight some programs incorporated in H.R. 4664 that originated in H.R. 1693, a science education bill I introduced with many of my Democratic colleagues from the Science Committee. These include research to explore ways to effectively use educational technologies in the classroom and programs to encourage and support women and minorities in pursuing careers in science and engineering.

H.R. 4664 also includes substantial provisions from the Undergraduate Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology Education Improvement Act, H.R. 3130, that authorize several programs at the National Science Foundation to strengthen undergraduate education in these fields of study. Basically, these programs will help increase the numbers of students graduating in science, math and engineering and will help improve the quality of undergraduate science education.

The undergraduate educational programs build on existing NSF programs that have proven their effectiveness, such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates. Similarly, the bill will provide support for the expansion of successful, small-scale undergraduate education reform activities that some colleges and universities have been engaged in.

H.R. 4664 is an important bill that will help ensure the nation maintains a vigorous basic research enterprise, which is an essential component for a strong economy and for national security. And equally important, it will help educate the next generation of scientists and engineers, the essential ingredient in ensuring the nation's technological strength.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this measure to my colleagues and ask for their support for its passage by the House.

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H.R. 4664

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman BOEHLERT, Ranking Member HALL, and Chairman SMITH for working with me in a bipartisan manner on this important piece of legislation that makes a strong statement about our commitment to invest in America's future. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Senator KENNEDY, Senator HOLLINGS, Senator GREGG, and Senator BOND in the other body.

As Ranking Member of the House Science Research Subcommittee, I am pleased to say that this is truly an historic piece of legislation for science policy in the United States. The conference report of H.R. 4664 begins the process of doubling NSF's budget, which was the goal of H.R. 1472, the NSF authorization bill I introduced in April of 2001. I introduced H.R. 1472 because I strongly believe that investing in basic science, math, and engineering research is essential to the future economic prosperity and global competitiveness of our country. Many of today's scientific breakthroughs in medicine, consumer electronics, homeland security and other technical fields are the direct result of investments made in basic research decades ago.

To appreciate the importance of NSF to scientists in America, consider some facts. NSF provides 23 percent of basic research funding at academic institutions and as much as 72 percent and 78 percent of the research in critical areas such as mathematics and science. Yet despite its importance to key sectors of our nation's economy, NSF previously had to decline more than \$1 billion worth of high quality research proposals each year due to

insufficient funds. With the passage of today's conference report, that situation has begun to change. The increase is applied equally to research and education programs, and specific funding authorizations are made for the focused research initiatives in some of the most promising frontiers of science, such as information technology and nanoscale science and engineering. The bill also makes a number of improvements in the way major research projects are funded, the transparency of the agency, and the coordination with other federal research agencies.

NSF also plays a leading role in educating our youth in the math and sciences and training the scientists and engineers of tomorrow, and the agency is working to ensure that tomorrow's high-tech workers reflect the diversity of America. This legislation includes a number of important initiatives that will improve upon science education in the United States. With Senator KENNEDY's help, H.R. 4664 includes portions of H.R. 1660, the Mathematics and Science Proficiency Partnership Act I introduced in May of 2001 to help secondary schools leverage private sector funds for math, science, and engineering scholarships. The Technology Talent Act of 2002, H.R. 3130, is also included in the NSF reauthorization. This initiative will increase the number of students studying and receiving associate's or bachelor's degrees in established or emerging fields within science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. It also establishes specific grant programs in these fields at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and enables eligible nonprofit organizations to work with NSF and public-private consortia to improve science and math education. My home state of Texas has an excellent track record of these innovative partnerships.

I am also pleased that the conference report of H.R. 4664 includes the text of H.R. 2051, the Regional Plant Genome and Gene Research Expression Act Chairman SMITH and I developed together and that passed the House in May of 2002. The legislation establishes competitive, merit based grants to eligible entities to conduct basic research on crops that can be grown in the developing world. The research supported by these grants will help scientists discover innovative solutions to some of the developing world's most intractable problems, such as hunger, malnutrition, and disease. An important feature of this authorization is that U.S. scientists are required to partner with their colleagues in developing nations, which will help develop the scientific capacity of developing nations and stimulate the free flow of ideas, which is so essential to the progress of science.

If we want future Americans to enjoy the pace of progress that we are blessed with today, it is imperative that we bolster funding for our nation's premier basic research agency, the National Science Foundation. H.R. 4664 is a step in the direction of making that dream possible. The legislation that passed last week provides our nation's premier science research agency with the resources it needs to continue and improve upon its excellent track record and authorizes a number of important science policy initiatives. I urge the President to sign H.R. 4664 into law, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in both chambers to ensure that NSF is fully funded under these new authorization levels.

H.R. 3609

SPEECH OF

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of H.R. 3609 pipeline safety legislation, Congress has completed a critical step in improving the safety and reliability of the nation's interstate natural gas pipeline system. The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), within the Department of Transportation has principal responsibility for developing, applying, and enforcing the pipeline safety rules that enhances the safety of the nation's pipelines and protects the public.

OPS is required to enforce these rules without regard to market conditions or commercial considerations. It must diligently seek to promote safety above any competing objectives. Among the most important of existing pipeline safety rules is the requirement that natural gas pipelines not exceed maximum allowable operating pressure, or MAOP. A pipeline's MAOP is established on the basis of engineering principles, testing, historical operations, and experience. Pipeline operators who exceed MAOP violate the Department of Transportation's pipeline safety regulations and may be fined for such violations.

No agency other than OPS should be allowed to re-interpret or water down pipeline safety regulations based on its view of market or commercial concerns. Allowing any other agency to usurp OPS's function will undermine the hard work the Congress has completed to enhance pipeline safety and minimize the risks of pipeline ruptures that may cause serious injury and death.

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H.R. 4664

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act, H.R. 4664, passed by the House on November 14, 2002, a bill which doubles funding for one of the most efficient and essential agencies of the Federal government, the National Science Foundation. In particular, I am proud to support this bill because it contains two provisions I authored, both of which will address growing needs in our educational system, our workforce and the economy.

The first provision will have a positive impact on our educational system's ability to integrate cutting edge technology into the classroom instruction of advanced disciplines at the primary and secondary education levels and which will, therefore, improve the educational opportunities of America's students. The second provision will address a growing problem in our nation's workforce: fewer and fewer Americans are seeking degrees in the scientific and technical fields as demand grows and more jobs go unfilled. Both provisions will improve the nation's capacity to maintain an innovative edge in technical fields, which is