



# News from the NPI

APRIL 29, 2021

## ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT INTRODUCED

Earlier this month, a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Senator Todd Young (R-IN), Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA), and Representative Mike Gallagher (R-WI) reintroduced the bipartisan Endless Frontier Act. The stated goal of the bill is “to advance and solidify the United States’ leadership in scientific and technological innovation through increased investments in the discovery, creation, and manufacturing of technology critical to U.S. national security and economic competitiveness.” It will also focus on ensur-

ing research investments translate into high-tech jobs in regions across the country. Included in the proposal is a large expansion of the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) budget including the establishment of a new Technology and Innovation Directorate within NSF to advance research and development in 10 key technology focus areas, including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum computing, advanced communications, biotechnology, and advanced energy. The NPI is monitoring the bill’s progress and will provide updates as it advances through Congress.

### [FULL SUMMARY OF THE ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT](#)

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## CONGRESS BEGINS ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Congress has begun planning for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Appropriations process. President Biden is also laying out his administration’s spending priorities and specifically mentioned quantum investment as a priority. In budget-related remarks he made on March 25, President Biden said “The future lies in who can, in fact, own the future as it relates to technology—in quantum computing, a whole range of things, including the medical fields.” As the spending process gets underway, the NPI is working with lawmakers to

achieve full funding for Quantum Information Science and Technology (QIST) research and development (R&D) in key government agencies. In correspondence and meetings with lawmakers, the NPI is touting the potential of these technologies to revolutionize many sectors of the economy such as healthcare, transportation and infrastructure, defense, computing, and financial services. Additional funding approved this year will follow several years of federal investment. After the National Quantum Initiative (NQI) Act was

signed into law in 2018, the federal government has made significant investments in quantum research activities already underway at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Energy (DOE). In FY20, Congress approved \$341 million across the NQI agencies: NSF, NIST, and DOE. In FY21, \$495 million was appropriated. The NPI is actively working to secure additional funding in order to maintain this positive momentum in the coming year.

## NPI HOLDS VIRTUAL HILL VISITS

A diverse group of representatives from industry, academia, and scientific societies participated in this year's quantum-focused Washington Hill meetings in early March. Over 58 virtual meetings were conducted over a period of four days. Stakeholders from IBM, Honeywell, Google, Microsoft, L3, University of Maryland, University of Oregon, Duke, University of Colorado, Harvard, SUNY Poly, University of Rochester, Toptica, IONQ, NYCREATES, SPIE, and The Optical Society (OSA) joined. In addition to advocating for investments in quantum, participants also discussed the Endless Frontier Act and encouraged members to join the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Optics & Photonics Caucus that was launched in late February.



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## CONGRESSIONAL OPTICS & PHOTONICS CAUCUS LAUNCHES

The bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Optics & Photonics (O&P) Caucus was successfully launched in February. The Caucus is co-chaired by Representatives Joe Morelle (D-NY) and Brian Mast (R-FL) and Senators Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and Steve Daines (R-MT). It will focus on educating members of Congress about the

tremendous potential of optics and photonics and find areas where the federal government can use them efficiently and effectively. The Caucus will also highlight areas of optics and photonics innovation across the country. It's not too late to encourage your member of Congress or Senator to join the O&P Caucus!

**Please visit this link to find a customizable letter for you to send.**

**If you missed the Caucus launch, you can watch the launch event [HERE](#).**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope you and your families are safe and well. Thank you for your continued support of the NPI and our efforts to advance optics, photonics, quantum and other exciting technologies. We appreciate all you do!



## CONTACT US

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