American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114-329)

Reauthorizes various funds for the National Science Foundation and guides future NSF efforts.

Updated last January 16, 2017 for the enrolled bill.

WHAT IT DOES

Public Law 114-329 reauthorizes various funds for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and guides future NSF efforts. The bill contains many spending and research provisions; of note here regard those discussing the Brain Research Through Advancing Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative and the National Nanotechnology Initiative.

BRAIN Initiative

Section 117 requires the NSF to support research benefitting the BRAIN Initiative. It also recommends but does not require that the NSF should collaborate with the National Science and Technology Council’s Interagency Working Group on Neuroscience in efforts to collect, manage, and analyze neuroscience data among Federal agencies.

National Nanotechnology Initiative

Section 204(b) amends the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 750 et seq.) in a few manners:

- Require a strategic plan for the National Nanotechnology Program to be developed and released every five years;
- Require the National Nanotechnology Advisory Panel every four years to report its assessment of its implementation of the National Nanotechnology Program; and
- Require the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to externally review the National Nanotechnology Program every four years, to report on the Program’s activities, and to offer recommendations for the Program’s improvement.

STATUS

The bill was introduced in the Senate on 06/22/2016 and passed in the Senate on 12/10/2016. The House of Representatives passed the bill without amendment on 12/16/2016. President Obama signed the bill into law on January 6, 2017.

SPONSORS

Sponsor: Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Cosponsors:

- Senator Gary C. Peters (D-MI)
- Senator John Thune (R-SD)
- Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL)

PRIMARY AUTHOR
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