

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CHINESE
COMMUNIST PARTY

Protecting American Innovation: The Federal Research Security Enterprise

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Questions for the Record

Questions submitted by Representative Andre Carson (IN-07), Select Committee on China

- 1. When a young, brilliant scientist sees colleagues' grants frozen or projects terminated for political reasons, they often move to the private sector or to foreign labs entirely. What is the agency's assessment of the cumulative loss of intellectual capital specifically in high-tech fields like quantum computing over the last 18 months, and how do we quantify that as a national security risk in itself?**

NSF remains committed to supporting meritorious cutting-edge research and fostering the next generation of U.S. STEM talent. Critical technologies, including quantum information science, are clear priority of the Administration and NSF. In fact, in alignment with Executive Order 14413, *Ushering in the Next Frontier of Quantum Innovation*, NSF recently announced Project Triad, an initiative focused on advancing quantum technology for real-world applications. The initiative will integrate quantum sensing, networking, and computing into a single operational system to strengthen American economic competitiveness and national security. More information about Project Triad is available at: <https://www.nsf.gov/news/nsf-launches-project-triad-advance-quantum-technology-real>. Additionally, NSF funded the largest cohort of Graduate Research Fellows in history last year, further demonstrating NSF's commitment to fostering the U.S. STEM workforce.

- 2. Given the current landscape of federal mandates, how would you describe the overall state of compliance across U.S. research institutions regarding research security laws and policies?**

Research organizations have made significant progress in incorporating new processes, resources, and personnel to enable compliance with federal regulations. However, research security is a rapidly evolving area and requires sustained adaptation to stay ahead of emerging threats. Further, research organizations vary substantially in size, resources, and research portfolios and experience challenges unique to their circumstances. NSF continues to support the community in their efforts through initiatives like the SECURE Program to provide the situational awareness and access to tools and best practices to help build their research security capacity.