

The State Of New York Should Develop Grant Programs To Support Scientific And Biomedical Research

When asked by Senator John Pastore during a hearing what the National Accelerator Laboratory (now Fermilab) had to do with the national defense of the United States, Physicist Robert Wilson replied: "It only has to do with the respect with which we regard one another, the dignity of men, our love of culture. It has to do with those things. It has to do with, are we good painters, good sculptors, great poets? I mean all the things that we really venerate and honor in our country and are patriotic about. It has nothing to do directly with defending our country except to help make it worth defending."
(https://history.fnal.gov/historical/people/goldwasser_vignettes.html)ffdcffdc

Whereas scientific discoveries made by scientific research have contributed to the economic growth of the state of New York and the rest of the nation;

Whereas basic, clinical, and translational biomedical research promises to continue to develop and bring to bring to market more effective treatments that will extend our health span by curing or delaying the development of neurodegenerative diseases, cancer, heart disease, childhood illnesses, immune diseases, and other disorders;

Whereas, NY has historically been the recipient of significant federal grants that contribute both to the scientific enterprise and the economy of NY (e.g., NY received 3.5 billion dollars from NIH, supporting the salaries and efforts of over 35,000 NYers);

Whereas, in addition to biomedical science, research in environmental science, materials science, computer science, chemistry, physics, cosmology and many other areas of science are important not only because they contribute to our practical wellbeing but also because they enhance our appreciation of the universe (See Richard Feynman's essay on the value of science at <https://calteches.library.caltech.edu/1575/1/Science.pdf>);

Whereas the priorities of the Trump administration have put into place many policies that have significantly damaged the scientific enterprise that has historically made the USA a leading scientific and economic powerhouse (<https://www.aamc.org/media/83996/download>);

Whereas many other states (e.g., Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, New Jersey, California) have put into place grant programs that have strengthened their scientific infrastructure and made them more competitive for Federal grants and more competitive on the world stage;

Aware that the Arts are also deserving of government support and that a strong case can be made for their value;

Therefore, the FFDC supports the development of state-supported programs to provide grants that support both biomedical research and other types of scientific research.

- **Noting the value of the type of proposal developed by the Associated Medicals Schools of NY (<https://amsny.org/advocacy/state-advocacy/empire-biomedical-research-institute-ebri/amsny-ebri-proposal/>), the FFDC supports bills in the NY legislature that would establish granting programs to support scientific research.**
- **Believing that the quality and value of research is best evaluated by a scientific advisory board that makes use of panels of scientific experts to evaluate the quality and value of proposals submitted by scientists through their institutions, we assert that funding decisions should be relatively free of political influence.**