

The American Innovation Act of 2025

Senator Durbin

The Issue

Investments in scientific research have helped the United States lead the world in new technologies, create millions of jobs, grow the economy, and advance national security. Sustained support for scientific research has enabled us to send a man to the moon, build the internet, produce a COVID-19 vaccine in record time, and achieve many other world-changing breakthroughs. Despite evidence that science funding has tremendous returns on investment, U.S. science funding as a percentage of GDP has declined nearly tenfold since the 1970s while China's R&D investment as a percentage of GDP is estimated to be at least 500% of that of 1996.

In 2022, the bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act* increased authorized funding levels for several key scientific research agencies, but Congress has not followed through in providing adequate appropriations. American scientific enterprise is losing its competitive edge.

Bill Summary

The *American Innovation Act* would increase funding for the following five science research offices and agencies at a rate of five percent, indexed to inflation, for 10 years, and a minimum in-perpetuity growth in par with inflation:

- Department of Energy Office of Science;
- National Science Foundation;
- National Institute of Standards and Technology Scientific and Technical Research Services;
- Department of Defense Science and Technology Programs; and
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Directorate

