

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021

DATE: October 8, 2021

The City's Government & Public Affairs (GPA) Department will provide a briefing on the *U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021*. GPA, in coordination with consultants and the Economic Development Department, is tracking and monitoring the legislation for possible funding opportunities.

Background

On June 8, 2021, the U.S. Senate passed the S. 1260, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 (USICA), by a 68-32 vote. USICA is a \$250 billion, five-year legislative package designed to boost scientific research and development and technological innovation that aims to strengthen U.S. competitiveness with China.

The legislation proposes \$10 billion for a technology directorate in the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish technology development hubs across the United States. The legislative package would appropriate \$52 billion for a domestic semiconductor manufacturing initiative. Additionally, the bill proposes \$80 billion to fund artificial intelligence research, robotics, and biotechnology, as well as \$1.5 billion to boost innovation in 5G and 6G wireless technologies.

On a parallel track, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2225, the *National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Future Act* by a vote of 345-67, and H.R. 3593, the *Department of Energy Science for the Future Act* by a vote of 351-68. H.R. 2225 would increase NSF's overall budget from the current \$8.5 billion to \$18.3 billion in 2026. The Energy Science bill would increase funding for the agency by \$2.6 billion to fund additional energy research projects outside of the research being funded by NSF.

GPA and the City's Economic Development Department (EDD) will provide information on programs included in the USICA which present opportunities for San Antonio, including funding for regional technology hubs, innovation centers, and manufacturing support.

The House and Senate will need to reconcile differences between the House bills and the Senate-passed package via a conference committee. These negotiations have not been scheduled.