CASINOS COULD HIT JACKPOT FROM TAXPAYER-FUNDED RESEARCH

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** National Science Foundation
- ⚙ **FUMBLE:** $50,000 for random casino numbers
- ⚙ **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Congress should work with NSF to ensure grants are not provided to advance research that private industries can complete

If random is the goal, NSF has a grant for that. Last year, NSF awarded $50,000 to the University of Michigan to create a technology that "exploits a new solution space, and represents one of the first concrete applications of quantum information science, and has the potential to draw even more public interest to the field."[102] (Go ahead. Google those terms, and come back.) The ultimate goal of the program is to achieve "a certifiable random number generator based on quantum physics. The team can design an apparatus that will generate random bits while at the same time certifying that the bits are random—even without any trust in the apparatus used."[103] The award announcement cites "companies that manage electronic transactions and gambling casinos" as two potential businesses that may benefit from this research.

No one questions the importance of investing in digital security in this age. However, Americans should call into question the need to spend federal taxpayer dollars on a project the private sector is more than capable of developing on its own.

RECOVERY

NSF conducts areas of research that benefit all American families, which should be encouraged. However, Congress should work with NSF to ensure grants are not provided to advance research benefiting private industries that are capable of doing the research on their own. Banks and casinos, which would benefit from this research, are more than capable of funding it without federal assistance. American families should not be expected to pick up the tab.

For more information, please visit:
Grantome: I-Corps: Practical and Provably Secure Random Number Generator
NSF: I-Corps: Practical and Provably Secure Random Number Generator