

July 17, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Serrano, and Ranking Member Aderholt,

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I would like to commend you for passing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill out of the full committee. The appropriations levels proposed in the legislation provide critical support for scientific research, especially during a time of continued uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For nearly six decades, CGS has served as the national organization dedicated to advancing graduate education and research. Our membership includes nearly 500 institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada, and abroad. Collectively, our members grant 87 percent of all U.S. doctorates and the majority of U.S. master's degrees.

The proposed funding in the CJS bill enhances our research and development (R&D) enterprise and provides opportunities for graduate and postdoctoral students to participate in it. The National Science Board's State of Science and Engineering report for 2020 highlighted that although the U.S. leads the world in R&D, other nations are now outpacing the U.S. in the growth of science and engineering capabilities. The appropriations offered in this legislation fosters the innovation critical to remain competitive in areas related to artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, STEM education, and more.

Therefore, CGS underscores the value of the increased funding for agencies that invest in our research and innovation enterprise, including the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF's Research and Related Activities support and array of directorates that facilitate science and engineering research and education to ensure the U.S. remains a global competitor. Additionally,

AFFILIATES

Conference
of Southern
Graduate Schools

Midwestern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Northeastern
Association
of Graduate Schools

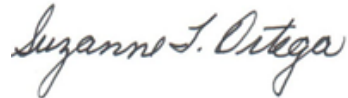
Western
Association
of Graduate Schools

NSF's Education and Human Resources, including the Division of Graduate Education, support STEM education to prepare a diverse and prepared workforce to enter these critical fields. In particular, the Graduate Research Fellowship program is instrumental in providing support to students pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees. Last year, NSF funded approximately 2,000 recipients.

Moreover, the bill continues to invest in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Research and innovation within these agencies bolster partnerships across a variety of areas vital to our R&D enterprise. In fact, NOAA's Oceanic and Atmospheric Research is exploring the environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and providing data to disease researchers. CGS applauds the legislation's investments in these agencies, which encourage innovation and address national need.

We appreciate your commitments in passing the CJS spending bill, with considerable investments in federal research and research training. If our organization can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Lauren Inouye, at Linouye@cgs.nche.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne T. Ortega".

Suzanne T. Ortega
President