

September 30, 2020

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

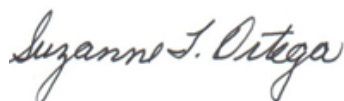
Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I write in support of H.R. 8044, the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act. We commend your bipartisan work to support researchers beginning their careers in our country's research and development (R&D) enterprise, especially during this time of unprecedented uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For almost 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. This legislation recognizes the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the STEM research pipeline and invests in the postdoctoral researchers who are conducting scientific discoveries that touch the lives of Americans daily.

The fellowship program established under H.R. 8044 would provide postdocs the opportunity continue their work as they face a challenging workforce environment due to COVID-19. For doctoral students, budget shortfalls occurring on college and university campuses have directly affected their job prospects in academic research. Additionally, contractions in private industries have reduced job opportunities outside of academia, thus adding to the strain. H.R. 8044 addresses this challenge head on by creating postdoctoral fellowships to carry out independent research for up to two years, therefore ensuring top talent continues to thrive in the U.S. research enterprise.

Again, we thank you and the Science Committee for your bipartisan efforts, which are paramount to advancing science and maintaining our nation's competitiveness. 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,



Suzanne T. Ortega
President

AFFILIATES

Conference
of Southern
Graduate Schools

Midwestern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Northeastern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Western
Association
of Graduate Schools

CC:

The Honorable Don Beyer

The Honorable Mike Garcia

The Honorable Dan Lipinski

The Honorable Randy Weber

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici

The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez

The Honorable Paul Tonko

The Honorable Steve Cohen