

March 11, 2021

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 the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act (H.R.144). We commend your 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 this legislation would provide early-career scientists the opportunity to 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. The Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act addresses this challenge directly 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 for introducing this legislation, which is paramount to advancing science and maintaining our nation's competitiveness. If our organization can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Smith, Public Policy and Government Affairs Manager, at [Msmith@cgs.nche.edu](mailto:Msmith@cgs.nche.edu).

Sincerely,



Suzanne T. Ortega  
President

#### AFFILIATES

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