



October 1, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
2-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
419 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I would like to commend Congress for passing H.R. 6157, which includes funding for the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. Passage of H.R. 6157 demonstrates your bipartisan commitment to investing in the future of our nation. For more than five decades, CGS has served as the national organization dedicated solely to advancing graduate education and research—our membership includes over 500 institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada, and abroad. Our institutions award the majority of U.S. doctoral and master's degrees.

The bill provides federal support for graduate education, which remains critical as the demand for master's and doctoral degree holders increases within some of the fastest growing occupations. Investing in higher education and research is vital in responding to the needs of the economy, cultivating a diverse workforce, and promoting discovery and innovation.

As the skills required by a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy continue to evolve and we become a more globalized society, graduate education is uniquely positioned to respond to many of those demands. Master's and doctoral degree holders are innovators, entrepreneurs, leaders, and employers. Graduate degrees continue to be an economic engine.

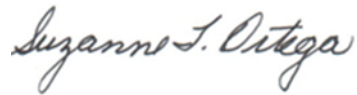
We appreciate that the bill includes funding for various programs of importance to graduate students such as Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Federal Work Study, and TRIO, which includes the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. Additionally, the bill continues support for Year-Round Pell and increases the maximum award. These programs are important to diversifying our institutions of higher education by providing access for low-income, first-

generation and underrepresented students to pursue both graduate and undergraduate degrees.

Additionally, increased investments in the National Institutes of Health will allow our graduate students and faculty to continue making groundbreaking findings that result in treatments and cures for the public.

CGS applauds Congress's success in passing this important spending bill, as well as your commitment to the regular order process this year. If CGS can be a resource to you or your staff, please contact CGS's Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Lauren Inouye, at [Linouye@cgs.nche.edu](mailto:Linouye@cgs.nche.edu) or (202)-461-3864.

Sincerely,

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

Suzanne T. Ortega  
President