



May 10, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-305 Capitol,
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
United States House of Representatives
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Lowey and DeLauro, and Ranking Members Granger and Cole,

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I would like to commend your leadership and thank the committee for reporting to the floor the House's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) bill. For more than five decades, CGS has served as the national organization dedicated solely 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 confer 87 percent of all U.S. doctorates and the majority of U.S. master's degrees.

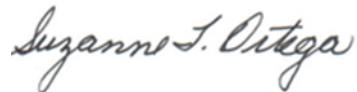
Making strong, sustainable investments in higher education and research is vital to addressing some of the most pressing needs of the public and the economy. Federal funding for student aid programs provides a pathway to higher education—including graduate education—for individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds. This helps ensure that our workforce is both reflective of a diverse population and has professionals who possess the knowledge, skills, and leadership capabilities employers require. As master's and doctoral degrees continue to become an entry-level requirement for some of the fastest growing professions, federal support for graduate students is critical in meeting these demands.

CGS is encouraged that the bill provides robust increases for programs such as the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need, Federal Work Study, TRIO, and Pell Grants, all of which allow economically-disadvantaged students to access higher education. Additionally, the bill continues supplemental support to help borrowers enroll in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, which is a critical incentive for qualified individuals to enter careers in public service where they can serve some of most high-need communities.

Furthermore, increased investments in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will allow the U.S. to remain the benchmark in terms of life-saving breakthroughs in biomedical research. NIH grants and fellowships allow graduate students to continue their scientific training while also contributing to this innovative work. We also appreciate increased investments in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Additionally, the bill provides boosts for workforce development programs under the Health Resources and Services Administration, which are critical in the training and quality of the healthcare workforce, where many occupations require a graduate degree.

We appreciate your bipartisan work on the LHHS-ED spending bill, which reflects an investment in our nation's education, research, and workforce. 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 or (202)-461-3856.

Sincerely,

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

Suzanne T. Ortega
President