



May 2, 2019

The Honorable Lauren Underwood  
United States House of Representatives  
1118 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Underwood,

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I am writing in support of the *American Cures Act* (H.R. 2401), which you introduced on April 30, 2019. 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. Graduate students and faculty within our member institutions heavily rely on federal support to advance research endeavors that have real public impact.

CGS commends the *American Cures Act* in that it proposes a five percent annual increase plus inflation that would offer much-needed funding stability, enabling agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense Health Program, and the Veterans Medical and Prosthetics Research Program to continue and expand upon the work they do.

The United States has a long history when it comes to breakthroughs and innovations in health care and biomedical science. The work done by these agencies is invaluable and has been responsible for improving the lives of not only countless Americans, but individuals throughout the world. In the absence of federal funds, much of this work would not have been possible. Furthermore, these agencies develop the next generation of scientists through fellowships and traineeships.

CGS commends your efforts to address the need for important federal investments in the research enterprise. If we can be a resource to you or your staff as you consider issues related to graduate education, 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