



July 7, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy,

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I would like to commend your leadership and the committee for passing the Senate's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) bill. CGS is the only national organization that solely represents graduate education and research. Our membership includes nearly 500 colleges and universities in the United States and abroad that award the majority of U.S. doctoral and master's degrees.

Investing in higher education and research is essential on numerous fronts. The ability for individuals to pursue higher education, including graduate degrees, helps ensure that our workforce is equipped with professionals who possess the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and leadership capabilities necessary to advance multiple employment sectors. Master's and doctoral students, as well as teaching and research assistants, rely on federal support in order to fulfill their academic and professional commitments.

Therefore, CGS is encouraged that the bill includes support for programs such as Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Federal Work Study, and TRIO, to name a few. Additionally, the bill continues support for Year-Round Pell and increases the maximum award. This will assist students most in need entering into the undergraduate pipeline, and eventually the graduate pipeline.

In addition, increased investments in the National Institutes of Health will allow for the discovery of lifesaving innovations. Our member graduate programs, faculty, and students translate these dollars into groundbreaking findings that have implications for biomedical technology, genetics, and treatments.

We appreciate your dedication in passing your LHHS-ED spending bill, as well as the committee's success in advancing all twelve FY 2019 appropriations bills through regular order. 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)-461-3856.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Suzanne T. Ortega'.

Suzanne T. Ortega  
President