

June 1, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Room H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: FY 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations, FY 2023 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations, and FY 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I am writing to encourage continued Congressional support for the nation's scientific research and innovation ecosystem. Specifically, CGS encourages you and your fellow Members of the 117th Congress to make federal funding for fundamental scientific research, often conducted by graduate students, a high priority when considering fiscal year (FY) 2023 appropriations legislation. For the United States to remain at the forefront of scientific research, technology, and innovation, the nation must continue to make robust investments at all federal research agencies that provide grant opportunities to support graduate students, postdoctoral students, and early-career researchers.

For over 60 years, CGS has served as the national organization dedicated to advancing graduate education and research. Our membership includes 500 institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada, and abroad representing over 1.8 million graduate students. Collectively, our members grant 87 percent of all U.S. doctorates and majority of U.S. master's degrees. As an association, we are proud to represent a diverse and dynamic group of higher education institutions ranging from public and private research-intensive institutions to regional comprehensive institutions, minority-serving institutions, and historically black colleges and universities.

As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees begin work on FY 2023 appropriations legislation, the CGS membership requests a high-level of funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and other federal research agencies. These agencies provide essential support to graduate students through core research grants, as well as graduate education and research programs.

Department of Energy's Office of Science

As the primary sponsor of physical sciences research, the Department of Energy is integral to the nation's scientific research enterprise and innovation ecosystem. The research supported by the agency not only drives discovery and advancements in new energy technologies, but also provides research and educational opportunities for the next generation's science and engineering workforce.

For FY 2023, CGS encourages Congress to appropriate \$8.8 billion in federal funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science. In addition, CGS strongly encourages robust funding for all agency-wide graduate education programs, but specifically want to call your attention to the Graduate Fellowship Program, the Graduate Student Research Program, the Computational Science Graduate Fellowship, and the APRA-E Fellows Program.

National Institutes of Health

As the world's largest biomedical research agency, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is at the forefront of conducting and funding groundbreaking research in a multitude of fields, including biomedical, behavioral, and social research. NIH's mission is "to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, life, and reduce illness and disability." To realize its mission, the agency conducts and supports research aimed at diagnosing, preventing, and curing human disease; examining the biological effects of the environment on humans; and understanding and gaining new knowledge about mental, addictive, and physical disorders. As we all know, NIH was integral to addressing the pressing challenges the nation faced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and instrumental in developing vaccines and other treatments. ***For FY 2023, CGS strongly encourages Congress to appropriate \$49 billion in federal funding for NIH. While CGS supports the Administration's establishment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), we urge Congress not to take the \$5 billion proposed for the new agency out of the NIH budget.*** Like other federal research agencies, NIH provides valuable research and educational opportunities to graduate students, including the Graduate Partnership Program, the Graduate Summer Opportunities to Advance Research Program, the NIH MD/PHD Partnership Training Program, and the Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program. By funding NIH at \$49 billion, Congress will provide important funding for all of NIH's graduate education and research programs.

National Science Foundation

For the last 70 years, it has been the mission of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to "promote the progress of science, to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense." As the only federal agency that supports research across all fields of science, engineering, and STEM education, NSF is the cornerstone of America's scientific research and innovation ecosystem.

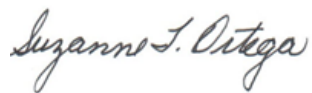
For FY 2023, CGS strongly encourages Congress to appropriate at least \$11 billion for NSF. This amount of funding will provide robust and needed funding for the Research and Related Activities Directorate and the STEM Education Directorate. NSF estimates that 53,470 graduate students and 7,650 postdoctoral associates will be engaged in NSF activities in fiscal year 2023. These graduate students and postdoctoral associates will perform research on NSF-funded grants, participate in NSF fellowship and traineeship programs, and serve as research assistants. CGS strongly encourages

continued Congressional support for all of NSF's agency-wide graduate education programs, including the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP), the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) and the National Research Traineeship (NRT) program.

Conclusion

U.S. graduate education is a strategic national asset that has provided important benefits to our nation, as well as for individuals. Our system of graduate education undergirds the scientific research enterprise that has fostered new knowledge, created cutting-edge technologies, and driven innovation. It is because of these contributions that we strongly encourage robust funding for the nation's research agencies in fiscal year 2023.

Sincerely,



Suzanne T. Ortega
President

AFFILIATES

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