

June 10, 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 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 bipartisan and bicameral support for the U.S. Department of Education's graduate education programs. As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees prepare to mark-up their Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations legislation, please give special consideration to graduate education programs supported and administered by the Department of Education. U.S. graduate education is the crown jewel of the American system of higher education, attracting top domestic and international students by creating dynamic and innovative programs that foster scholarship, research, and scientific discovery.

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.

Access to Graduate Education and Scholarship

The Department of Education supports and administers essential graduate education programs for a diverse cadre of students. A program of particular importance to the CGS membership is the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Program (GAANN). This program provides valuable opportunities for graduate students to conduct vital research and produce scholarship that will help meet the nation's most pressing challenges. Specifically, this program provides three-year fellowships to graduate students with demonstrated financial need. As the only grant aid program available to graduate students through the Department of Education, GAANN is a critical source of support for academically talented graduate students who would otherwise face financial barriers in accessing a master's or doctoral degree. GAANN fellowships are awarded to scholars pursuing degrees in fields of study designated as areas of national need and in areas of study that will help the United States remain globally competitive. Since Fiscal Year 2011, federal funding for GAANN has decreased from \$30 million to \$23.5 million, limiting the scope of the program and allowing it to serve fewer students. During the

same ten-year period, the number of GAANN awards dropped from 176 to 88, a 50 percent decrease. While fellowship stipends have remained the same, ranging from \$30,000 to \$34,000 during this decade, the decline in the number of awards limits the program's scope and ability to support students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. **For these reasons, CGS requests an appropriation of \$35 million for GAANN in fiscal year 2023.**

Another essential Department of Education program that provides needed assistance to academically talented graduate students is the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. The McNair Scholars Program provides funding to 151 institutions of higher education to prepare eligible students for doctoral study through research and scholarly activities. Participants are from disadvantaged backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential. **CGS strongly encourages an appropriation of \$1.307 billion for TRIO programs, which includes the McNair Scholars Program. This level of funding would provide one million low-income, first-generation students with the support they need to succeed in their educational endeavors.**

Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within graduate education enhances cross-cultural understanding, fosters intellectual collegiality, and enriches the scholarship produced at institutions of higher education. As the nation becomes more diverse, Congress must continue to make significant federal investment in the recruitment, education, training, and support for the advancement of all graduate students. As a result, CGS strongly supports programs administered by the Department of Education that enable graduate schools to attract and support students, postdoctoral researchers and fellows, and faculty from diverse backgrounds, including those from historically underrepresented minority groups.

The Aid for Institutional Development programs (commonly referred to as the Title III programs) support improvements in educational quality, management, and financial stability at qualifying postsecondary institutions. Title III programs that support graduate education include Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions and Strengthening Master's Degree Programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Title V programs strengthen institutions serving Hispanic and other low-income students. The Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) Program within Title V provides grants to expand postbaccalaureate educational opportunities for and improve the academic attainment of Hispanic students. **Given the importance of these programs, CSG encourages Congress to fund these programs at the funding levels requested in the Administration's FY 2023 Budget.**

- **Aid for Institutional Development Programs:** \$886.8 million, which is \$247 million or 38.6 percent above the FY 2022 funding amount.
- **Historically Black Graduate Institutions:** \$102.3 million
- **Master's Degree Programs at HBCUs:** \$21 million
- **Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities:** \$53.1 million
- **Aid for Hispanic-serving Institutions:** \$265.6 million
- **Developing Hispanic-serving Institutions:** \$236.7 million, which is \$88 million more than the FY 2022 funding amount.
- **Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans:** \$28.8
- **Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program:** **at least** \$95 million

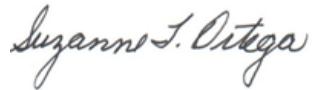
International Education and Foreign Language Studies

As our world becomes increasingly connected, it is essential for the nation to increase its investment in

international education and foreign language studies. Indeed, these programs have received bipartisan and bicameral support because they provide a solid foundation in international education, research, and world language studies. There are several important international education and foreign language training programs, including the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, the National Resource Centers program, and the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad program. Given the importance of these and other programs, **CGS requests \$161 million for Title VI International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs, which includes \$141.1 million for HEA-Title VI and \$20 million for Fulbright-Hays.**

Thank you for your continued support for U.S. graduate education and the programs supported by the Department of Education.

Sincerely,



Suzanne T. Ortega
President

AFFILIATES

Conference
of Southern
Graduate Schools

Midwestern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Northeastern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Western
Association
of Graduate Schools