

October 20, 2022

The Honorable Arati Prabhakar
Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Implementation of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022

Dear Director Prabhakar:

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I am writing to thank the Biden Administration for its continued commitment to the nation's scientific research and innovation enterprise. CGS especially appreciates the enactment of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 and the establishment of an Implementation Steering Council to coordinate policies and programs across federal research agencies. For the United States to remain at the forefront of scientific research, technology, and innovation, the nation must continue to make robust investments in America's research enterprise and at all federal agencies that provide research and 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, Hispanic Serving institutions (HSI), and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI).

It has been said that the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 (CHIPS Act) is an "historic" and "once-in-a-generation" investment in the nation's semiconductor industry and scientific research and innovation enterprise. Indeed, the implementation of the CHIPS Act will be essential to the revitalization of the nation's semiconductor industry, as well as providing robust federal investments in fundamental research conducted at the nation's colleges and universities. Moreover, the CHIPS Act will be instrumental in providing educational and research opportunities for women, first-generation and underrepresented minority students, and students residing in states that benefit from the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Program. These educational and research capacity-building programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy's Office of Science (DOE-Office of Science), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST),

and other federal agencies will prepare the current and next generation of scientists, innovators, and highly-skilled STEM professionals and workers.

As the Biden Administration begins its work to implement this important Act, CGS asks that you make provisions that benefit master's and doctoral education a high priority. Please give special attention to programs that provide mentoring, career training, and professional development for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, as well as to programs that aim to broaden participation in science.

Robust Federal Funding for America's Scientific Research and Innovation Enterprise

The CHIPS Act is essential to advancing American research and innovation in the 21st century. Like its predecessors, the American Competitiveness Initiative and the America COMPETES Act, this Act calls for robust and sustainable federal investments in the nation's scientific research enterprise, as well as significant investment in STEM workforce development. As the Biden Administration begins its work to implement the CHIPS Act and continues to draft the fiscal year 2024 Budget, CGS strongly encourages your support for the following: programs that promote the growth of the STEM and semiconductor workforces; programs that support Graduate STEM Education; STEM educational programs that incorporate art and design into innovation (commonly known as STEAM); artificial intelligence and cybersecurity research and development; and programs that broaden access and participation in the STEM disciplines. CGS encourages the Administration's support for the authorized funding levels for DOE-Office of Science, NSF, NIST, and other federal research agencies included in the CHIPS Act. In the 118th Congress, CGS will advocate for the passage and enactment of these authorization funding levels in fiscal year 2024 appropriations legislation.

Broadening Participation and Diversification of America's STEM Workforce

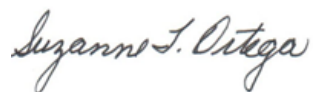
Like previous COMPETES Act legislation, the CHIPS Act includes important and necessary provisions that promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the STEM disciplines and workforce. CGS is particularly supportive of provisions in the Act that calls for increased federal funding for and partnerships with HSIs, HBCUs, MSIs, and emerging research institutions. Specifically, we support provisions in the Act that call for the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women, minorities, and other groups of graduate students that are underrepresented in the STEM disciplines and careers. Last year, the National Science Board released its Vision 2030 report, which referred to women, underrepresented minorities, and students residing in underserved communities as the "Missing Millions." The report stressed the need to provide access and opportunities for these students to study the STEM disciplines. CGS agrees with the findings of the report and believes that the provisions in the CHIPS Act will broaden participation in science for these groups.

Responsible Conduct of Research and Research Security

The CHIPS Act includes important provisions concerning research integrity and research security. As an organization with a history and interest in the development of research integrity curricula, CGS appreciates and supports provisions in the Act regarding research ethics, responsible conduct of research, and research reproducibility and replicability. CGS member-institutions welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Implementation Steering Council on these and other issues. Likewise, we welcome the opportunity to continue our engagement with the Administration on research security issues.

U.S. graduate education is an essential national asset that benefits our economy, workforce, and scientific research enterprise. CGS welcomes the opportunity to meet with the Implementation Steering Council staff, OSTP, and other federal research agency staff as you continue the implementation process. If you have any questions or comments about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Amy Scott at amscott@cgs.nche.edu or Mr. Nick Cox at ncox@cgs.nche.edu.

Sincerely,



Suzanne T. Ortega
President

Cc:

Shalanda Young, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Ronnie Chatterji, White House Coordinator for CHIPS Implementation, National Economic Council
Eric Lin, Interim Director of the CHIPS Research and Development Office
Todd Fisher, Interim Senior Advisor in the CHIPS Program Office, NIST
Donna Dubinsky, Senior Counselor to Secretary of CHIPS Implementation
J.D. Grom, Senior Advisor to Secretary of CHIPS Implementation

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