

Fiscal Year 2024 Outside Witness Testimony**U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations****Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies****Thursday, May 18, 2023**

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I, Suzanne T. Ortega, President of CGS submit this written testimony for the record regarding Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations. As the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies begins to consider FY 2024 appropriations legislation, please give special attention to graduate education and training programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The programs administered by these agencies: promote access to graduate education, training, and scholarship; broaden participation of underrepresented groups in the academic disciplines; and creates opportunities for international engagement and collaboration.

For over 60 years, CGS has served as the national organization dedicated to advancing graduate education and research. Our membership includes nearly 500 institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada, and abroad, representing over 1.8 million graduate students. Collectively, CGS member institutions grant 87 percent of all U.S. doctorates and majority of U.S. master's degrees. As a higher education association, we are proud to represent a diverse and dynamic group of institutions, ranging from public and private research-intensive institutions to regional comprehensive institutions, Minority-Serving Institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The CGS member institutions are committed to providing high-quality education and training programs to their graduate students.

For FY 2024, CGS requests that the subcommittee appropriate at least, but preferably more than the amount requested in the President's FY 2024 Budget. For the **U.S. Department of Education**, CGS encourages the subcommittee to make robust investments in graduate education programs, including: the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need; the Ronald

E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program; and the Child Care Access Means Parents in School. These programs not only provide access to graduate education for a diverse cadre of talented students, but they are also helping to prepare the next generation of the American workforce.

- **Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)** provides valuable opportunities for graduate students to conduct vital research and produce scholarship that will help meet the nation’s most pressing needs and keep the United States at the forefront of academic research. 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 that face financial barriers in accessing a master’s or doctoral degree. In the last 10 years, funding for GAANN has decreased significantly, and the number of GAANN awards have decreased by 50 percent. **It is time for Congress to renew its commitment to GAANN and appropriate at least \$35 million for this program in the fiscal year 2024.**
- **Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (McNair Scholars)** provides funding to 151 institutions of higher education to prepare eligible participants for doctoral studies through the involvement in research and scholarly activities. McNair Scholars are typically from disadvantaged backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential with the goal of attaining doctoral degrees. **CGS strongly recommends an appropriation of at least \$61.2 million for this program in the fiscal year 2024.**
- **Child Care Access Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS)** provides much-needed grants to institutions of higher education to support or establish campus-based childcare services to low-income students, including those in graduate school. In a [May 2022 blog post](#), authored by Michelle Asha Cooper, Ph.D., former-Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education, it mentioned that the average cost of childcare was between

\$9,200 to \$9,600 annually. At the same time childcare costs are rising, there are limits to the amount of funds the Department of Education can award to institutions of higher education. This is an important program that graduate students and their families rely on. **CGS strongly recommends an appropriation of at least \$95 million for this program in the fiscal year 2024.**

In addition, CGS encourages the subcommittee to fund the following Department of Education programs:

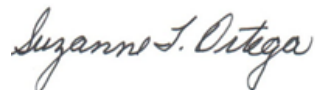
- **Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions:** \$102.3 million
- **Strengthening Master’s Degree Programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities:** \$21 million
- **Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans:** \$28.8 million
- **International and Foreign Language Studies:** \$173.6 million
- **School and Campus-Based Mental Health Service:** \$150 million
- **Systemwide Holistic Student Supports:** \$30 million
- **Graduate Fellowships to Prepare Faculty in High-Need Areas at Colleges of Education:** \$10 million

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. **For FY 2024, CGS encourages an appropriation of at least \$50.924 billion for NIH’s foundational work.** At a recent hearing, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA), said “As Senator Collins and I have said from the start of these hearings, we are very determined to get back to regular order and make sure we pass the funding necessary to keep our families safe and healthy, and keep our nation competitive – and that simply has to include providing robust funding for the National Institutes of Health.” CGS encourages continued federal investment in NIH research and training programs, including: the Graduate Partnership Program (GPP); the Graduate

Summer Opportunities to Advance Research Program (G-SOAR); the Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP), and NIH MD/PhD Partnership Training Program. In addition, CGS strongly supports funding for the Next Generation Researcher Initiative which cultivates early-stage investigators entering the biomedical and behavioral research workforce. The Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSA) for Individual Fellow and Trainees provides predoctoral and postdoctoral research training in specified fields of study. The Kirschstein-NRSA also assists fellows and trainees with childcare cost awards, which is important for researchers with families and caregiving responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on the FY 2024 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. CGS looks forward to your support for the programs included in this testimony, and others that promote access to graduate education and scholarship, strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion at the nation's universities, and creates international engagement and collaboration. If you have any questions, 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

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