

May 23, 2024

The Honorable Patricia Murray
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 2-510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
and Science & Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
and Science & Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patricia Murray
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Fiscal Year 2025 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations and Fiscal Year 2025 Energy and Water Development 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 118th Congress to make federal funding for scientific research, often conducted by graduate students, a high priority when considering fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations legislation.

For over 60 years, CGS has served as the national organization dedicated to advancing graduate education and research. Our membership includes 475 institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada, and abroad representing over 1.8 million graduate students. Collectively, our members grant 81 percent of all U.S. doctorates and the 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 Senate Appropriations Committee begins its work on FY 2025 appropriations legislation, the CGS membership requests robust and sustainable funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science and the National Science Foundation. 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 basic research in the physical sciences, the work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy is integral to the advancement of the energy, economic, and national security of the United States. 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 2025, CGS encourages Congress to appropriate \$9.5 billion for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science.** This level of funding will not only support the groundbreaking research and scientific advancements taking place at DOE laboratories and on university campuses around the country, but it will also support educational and training opportunities for graduate students. This level of funding will support important programs such as, the Reaching a New Sciences Workforce (RENEW) and Funding for Accelerated, Inclusive Research (FAIR) initiatives. The RENEW graduate fellowship program will support graduate studies for students who received bachelor's degrees from emerging research institutions, underserved communities, Minority-Serving Institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities. If the United States is to remain ahead of competitor nations, we must broaden access and foster greater participation in the STEM disciplines, by all students.

In addition to RENEW and FAIR, CGS strongly encourages robust federal funding for the Graduate Education for Minority Students Fellowship Program and the DOE's Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program (SCGSR). Last month, the DOE-Office of Science announced the selection of 86 graduate students representing 31 states to participate in the SCGSR program. The Graduate Student Research program prepares students to complete their PhD training and to enter jobs of critical importance to the DOE mission. Since 2014, the SCGSR program has provided more than 1,150 graduate awardees from 165 institutions of higher education with supplemental funds to conduct part of their thesis research at a host DOE laboratory and work closely with accomplished DOE laboratory scientists. The SCGSR awardees work on research projects that address critical energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges that are of importance to our nation.

National Science Foundation

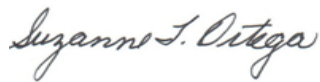
For the last 74 years, it has been the mission of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to "promote the progress of science, to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense." As the only federal agency that supports research across all fields of science, engineering, and STEM education, NSF is the cornerstone of America's scientific research and innovation ecosystem. It is the third-largest funding stream behind the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense. For fiscal year 2025, NSF estimates that 47,300 graduate students and 6,200 postdoctoral associates will be engaged in NSF activities. 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.

For FY 2025, CGS encourages Congress to appropriate at least \$11.9 billion for NSF. This level of funding will provide robust and needed funding for the Research and Related Activities Directorate and the STEM Education Directorate. Specifically, CGS encourages Congress to appropriate at least \$341

million for the Graduate Research Fellowship Program, which would support 2,300 new fellowships, with a cost of education allowance of \$16,000 and a stipend of \$37,000 per fellow. Likewise, CGS encourages strong Congressional support for other programs aimed at the advancement of graduate students such as: the NSF Research and Traineeship (NRT) Program (at least \$60 million), the CyberCorps-Scholarship for Service (\$74 million), and the STEM Education Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (at least \$9 million). There are also NSF programs aimed at broadening participation in STEM education and research. CGS continues to champion the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) (at least \$260 million), the Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity (at least \$40 million), and the Alliance for Graduate Education and Professoriate (at least 10 million). These are just a few NSF programs that are priorities for CGS and the graduate education community.

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 2025.

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