

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy,

We are writing on behalf of students and student governments at 26 universities representing over 250,000 students across the nation. We support policies that recognize the vital role graduate researchers play in bolstering American innovation and maintaining American economic competitiveness, and we encourage lawmakers to support these future leaders of research.

As you continue to negotiate the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations, we strongly urge you to fully fund the NSF for the Future Act, passed as part of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. This bill contains provisions critical to supporting the current backbone and future leaders of innovation and research. If America is not to cede its competitive edge, investment in the STEM workforce is critical.

To that end, we particularly urge full funding at the authorized levels for the following provisions in Title III - National Science Foundation for the Future of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022:

- Section 10313(a)(5)(D) - Funding research addressing root causes of graduate student mental health & developing effective interventions will enable the elimination of the systemic problems causing graduate students to have symptoms of anxiety and depression at [6 times the rate of the general population](#).
- Sections 10531-10539 - [Combatting sexual harassment in science](#) is critical to making the research environment safe and inclusive for all, particularly as graduate students are low in the academic hierarchy and are thus disproportionately harassed.
- Sections 10621 and 10524 - Investments in regional technology hubs and MSI Centers of Innovation enables increased participation and contributions from scientifically underserved communities, broadening the STEM talent pool.

Additionally, we wish to highlight the fellowships, including the NSF GRFP, authorized throughout other sections of CHIPS and Science as an excellent funding model that financially frees graduate researchers from principal investigators, disrupting the hierarchy that contributes to the problems being addressed in some of the above provisions.

- Title I Section 10104(a), 10113(a) and (b); Title III Sections 10313(b), 10321, 10393

With substantial investments, these provisions significantly bolster the STEM workforce pipeline and strengthen American innovation and global competitiveness. Without them, the American research environment will languish and cede its edge.

Thank you for considering these recommendations. If you would like to discuss the importance of graduate education and research for driving American innovation and economic growth or to discuss these recommendations further, please reach out to us at [gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu) and [gsa-vpea@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:gsa-vpea@andrew.cmu.edu).

Sincerely,

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On behalf of:

Associated Students California State University Northridge  
Associated Students of Oregon State University Policy Team  
Biotech Group at Northwestern University  
Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Assembly  
Colorado State University Graduate Student Council  
Dartmouth College Graduate Student Council  
Fordham University Graduate Student Council  
Graduate and Professional Student Government at IUPUI  
Graduate and Professional Student Government at the University of Colorado Boulder  
Graduate Student Council of Seattle University  
Indiana University, Bloomington Graduate and Professional Student Government  
Keck Graduate Institute Student Government  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Graduate Student Council  
New York University Student Government Assembly  
Northwestern Chicago Graduate Student Association  
Northwestern University Graduate Workers Organizing Committee  
Stanford University Graduate Student Council  
The Graduate Student Senate of the University of Vermont  
The University of Toledo Graduate Student Association  
Tufts University Graduate Student Council  
University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government

University of Louisiana at Lafayette Graduate Student Organization  
University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate Student Senate  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas Graduate & Professional Student Association  
University of North Carolina Charlotte Graduate and Professional Student Government  
University of Southern California Graduate Student Government  
University of Tulsa Graduate Student Association

CC:

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
The Honorable Jerry Moran  
The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
The Honorable Rober Aderholt