

May 3, 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Haley Stevens
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Waltz
U.S. House of Representatives
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Lucas, and Representatives Stevens and Waltz,

On behalf of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), I write in support of H.R. 2225, the National Science Foundation for the Future Act. We commend your bipartisan work to include robust investments for graduate STEM education, which will further enhance our nation's innovative capacity and economic prosperity. For more than six decades, 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. Collectively, our members grant 87 percent of all U.S. doctorates and the majority of U.S. master's degrees. This legislation recognizes the impact graduate education has on our research enterprise and invests in strategies to diversify the pipeline to ensure broader participation.

There are several areas in the legislation that make meaningful improvements to STEM education and research training, while focusing on students. The expansion of mentoring in H.R. 2225 establishes a commitment to graduate students that ensures they have the ability to take ownership of their education and research. The additional funds to develop research on mentoring and its effectiveness only further improve this integral piece of graduate education and our research enterprise pipeline. CGS also applauds the updates to and investments in the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). GRFP awards encourage the best and brightest students to pursue STEM education at the graduate level and ensure the vitality and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce. These investments and improvements follow the theme of increasing diversity and broadening participation interwoven throughout the bill. Along with the increase in fellowship awards, CGS appreciates the inclusion of the study on graduate student funding to ensure the most effective mechanisms are supporting our graduate students and researchers.

Again, we thank you and the Science Committee for your bipartisan efforts to make graduate STEM education such an integral part of this legislation. If our organization can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our Manager of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Matthew Smith, at msmith@cgs.nche.edu.

AFFILIATES

Conference
of Southern
Graduate Schools

Midwestern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Northeastern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Western
Association
of Graduate Schools

Sincerely,

Suzanne T. Ortega

Suzanne T. Ortega
President