



Council of Graduate Schools

Statement on House Passage of H.R. 362 and H.R. 363

April 26, 2007

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) commends the United States House of Representatives' passage of H.R. 362 and H.R. 363. These bills will enhance U.S. competitiveness and innovation by investing in education and research and development.

CGS is grateful for the leadership shown by the House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Ranking Member Ralph Hall (R-TX) in promoting and passing the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act" (H.R. 362) and the "Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act" (H.R. 363). The legislation was supported by a bipartisan group of Representatives committed to addressing the important issue of strengthening American competitiveness.

Developing the highly skilled workforce needed for the U.S. to compete effectively in the 21st century global economy is a critical national priority. These bills address the crucial role of graduate education in this endeavor by:

- Mandating that NSF's Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) program receive at least 1.5% of NSF's research budget (H.R. 363)
- Authorizing NSF to support the development and implementation of master's degree programs for science and math teachers in order to strengthen their subject area knowledge (H.R. 362)
- Increasing major federal agencies' funding for basic research by 10% annually; focus would be on the physical sciences, mathematics, and engineering (H.R. 363)
- Providing early-career researchers multi-year grants through National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Energy (DOE) programs (H.R. 363)

The role of graduate education in enhancing U.S. competitiveness is addressed in the new CGS report titled **Graduate Education: The Backbone of American Competitiveness and Innovation**. This report delineates the important role of graduate education in producing the innovators of tomorrow.

The Council of Graduate Schools looks forward to working with Congress on implementing a national strategy to maintain U.S. leadership in the 21st century global economy.

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of over 480 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. CGS member institutions award more than 90% of the doctoral degrees and over 75% of the master's degrees in the U.S. The organization's mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.

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