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March 1, 2006

The Honorable Silvestre Reyes  
2433 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Reyes:

I am writing to commend you for supporting U.S. competitiveness, innovation, and research and development through the introduction of the National Defense Education Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (NDEA-21, H.R. 4734). The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and its 450 plus member institutions are very grateful for your leadership in addressing the important issue of strengthening American competitiveness and for your recognition of the role of graduate education in this process.

We are specifically pleased that NDEA-21 includes:

- Grants to universities to establish professional science master's programs
- Support for graduate students enrolled in STEM research programs in countries identified as having languages of critical importance to the United States
- STEM Teaching Fellowship for masters degree recipients

These provisions are consistent with the recommendations put forth in the CGS white paper, NDEA 21: a Renewed Commitment to Graduate Education.

Supporting graduate education is critical to achieving the highly skilled workforce needed for the U.S. to compete effectively in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. Thank you for your leadership on this important policy matter. The Council of Graduate Schools looks forward to working with you to implement this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Debra W. Stewart

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#### AFFILIATES

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