

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

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

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Feinstein, Ranking Member Kennedy, Chair Shaheen, Ranking Member Moran, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Blunt,

As we weather the COVID-19 pandemic and look to the future, we must do everything we can to develop the next generation of scientists and ensure that the American research enterprise is ready to assist the nation in the face of future pandemics and other pressing challenges.

Supporting science, technology, engineering, and math graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, collectively referred to as STEM trainees, will not only lead to future scientific breakthroughs but will also further stimulate the economy, including the growing bioeconomy, and strengthen the leadership role of the United States in science and technology.

Strong investments are needed to provide the nation's brightest minds with the necessary resources to thrive and innovate. Increased resources will help remove barriers to STEM careers and ensure that the best talent, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, geographic location, or economic status, is recruited and retained in STEM.

We urge our colleagues to support increased appropriations for the programs targeted to STEM trainees across key federal scientific agencies to support the next generation of scientists and ensure that the U.S. scientific enterprise is ready for the challenges of the 21st century.

**To support the next generation of scientists, we request the following appropriations:**

1. **\$16 million for the Department of Energy: Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI)**, which encourages undergraduate students and recent graduates to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers by providing research experiences at the Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories.
2. **\$25 million for National Science Foundation: Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP)**, which provides awards to federally recognized Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions to promote high quality science.
3. **Support for the National Institute of Health's (NIH) National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)**. NIGMS manages a number of important training and workforce development programs, including the **Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program**, which provides support to eligible, domestic institutions to develop and implement effective, evidence-informed approaches to biomedical training and mentoring that will keep pace with the rapid evolution of the research enterprise. We support funding NIGMS consistent with the President's FY 2023 request.

This boost in funding for programs supporting STEM trainees would invest in America's future prosperity, safety, and scientific leadership.

Thank you for your consideration.

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