



Brandeis University



To: Massachusetts Delegation Legislative Directors

From: **Boston University** – Jennifer Grodsky and Emily Burlij, Federal Relations
Brandeis University – Ellen de Graffenreid, Communications
Harvard University – Suzanne Day and Jon Groteboer, Office of Federal Relations
Massachusetts Institute of Technology – William Bonvillian, Philip Lippel, and Amanda Arnold, Washington Office

Date: March 14, 2014

Re: FY 2015 Programmatic Requests for Federal Science and Education Agencies

With the Appropriations Committee soliciting your office's priorities for fiscal year 2015, we wanted to share with you some of our priorities for next year's federal funding. We hope that this supports your efforts to submit programmatic priorities to the Appropriations Committee; please let us know if we can provide any further information or assistance.

Federal support for research and education makes it possible for Massachusetts research universities to lead the way in scientific discovery and educating future leaders. Our institutions greatly appreciate your consistent work to enhance funding for scientific research across the federal government. We recognize that, particularly in times of significant fiscal restraint, we are fortunate to have such champions of science and education amongst our delegation.

We are grateful that the fiscal year 2014 omnibus appropriations law partially restored the spending cuts to federal science and education programs enacted under the sequester. These cuts took a significant toll on the higher education community and are likely to reverberate for years to come.

We recognize that the spending caps for fiscal year 2015 leave little room for growth, but we cannot continue to reduce funding for our research and education agencies without irreversible damage to the students and scholars studying and performing cutting edge science in Massachusetts. The Commonwealth's research universities provide the highest quality education to thousands of students; we believe that protecting federal supports for students and early career scientists should be of highest priority.

Thank you for considering these requests, for your ongoing support for research and education, and for your support of Massachusetts research universities.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Appropriations Priorities

LABOR, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

FY 2015 Request: \$32.0 billion

FY 2014 Enacted: \$29.9 billion

President's Budget: \$30.2 billion

Dear Colleague: Circulated by Reps. David McKinley (R-WV), Andre Carson (D-IN), Susan Davis (D-CA) and Peter King (R-NY); Contact Devon Seibert (Rep. McKinley), Erica Powell (Rep. Carson), Matt Weiner (Rep. Susan Davis), or Jamie Tricarico (Rep. King) Deadline: March 25

Massachusetts institutions received over \$2.3 billion in funding from NIH in FY 2013, making it one of the top state recipients in the U.S. The impact of this investment on Massachusetts and on scientific discovery is profound. Our researchers are uncovering new findings every day that bring us closer to treating and curing diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and mental health disorders. NIH also provides irreplaceable training support to early career biomedical researchers at our institutions; this support must be sustained so as not to disrupt the research workforce pipeline.

Department of Education, Pell Grants

FY 2015 Request: \$5,830 Maximum Discretionary Award

FY 2014 Enacted: \$5,730 Maximum Discretionary Award

President's Budget: \$5,830 Maximum Discretionary Award

The Pell Grant program is the foundation of federal student aid, helping more than 141,400 low-income students attend college in Massachusetts. Our universities build on the foundation provided by Pell by supplementing federal aid with our own institutional financial aid. As a result, we can maintain affordability and outstanding educational quality.

Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences

FY 2015 Request: \$637 million

FY 2014 Enacted: \$577 million

President's Budget: \$637 million

Investing in peer-reviewed education research activities at the Institute of Education Sciences results in innovations in both teaching and learning, improving classrooms around the nation. We also support the creation of an ARPA-ED to fund innovative education technologies with immediate impact in the classroom.

Department of Education, International Education and Foreign Language

FY 2015 Request: \$82 million

FY 2014 Enacted: \$72 million

President's Budget: \$76 million

The Title VI/ Fulbright-Hays International Education and Foreign Language programs support training in critical foreign languages, educational outreach activities for K-12 schools, and curriculum development for the multidisciplinary study of regions around the world. In an increasingly interconnected world, these international education programs are an essential means for America to develop a globally fluent citizenry.

Department of Education, Campus-Based Aid Programs

FY 2015 Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) Request: \$735 million

FY 2014 SEOG Enacted: \$733 million

President's Budget: \$733 million

FY 2015 Federal Work Study (FWS) Request: \$976.0 million

FY 2014 FWS Enacted: \$974.7 million

President's Budget: \$974.7 million

Campus-based student aid programs help students by leveraging federal dollars with institutional aid to provide extra financial support to students with need. Universities in Massachusetts participate in these programs at a high rate, distributing more than \$27 million in SEOG and \$41 million in Federal Work Study.

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)

FY 2015 Request: \$31.0 million

FY 2014 Enacted: \$29.3 million

President's Budget: \$29.3 million

GAANN fellowships provide financial support for Massachusetts graduate students pursuing doctoral education in fields that are critical to national priorities, including: biology; chemistry; computer and information sciences; engineering; mathematics; nursing; physics; and educational assessment, evaluation and research.

DEFENSE

Department of Defense (DOD) Basic (6.1) Research

FY 2015 Request: \$2.23 billion

FY 2014 Enacted: \$2.16 billion

President's Budget: \$2.01 billion

Within the DOD 6.1 basic research program, our institutions support sustained funding for critical initiatives such as National Defense Education Program, which supports undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and research awards to exceptionally talented researchers; the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships

program; and the Minerva Initiative, a unique social science research program that deepens understanding of the social, cultural, and political forces affecting areas of the world of strategic importance to the U.S. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is also important for researchers conducting high-risk, high-reward research that can have immediate applications for the warfighter.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Science

FY 2015 Request: \$5.22 billion

FY 2014 Enacted: \$5.07 billion

President's Request: \$5.11 billion

The DOE Office of Science is the nation's primary funder of basic physical science research supporting our nation's energy needs and also contributes to other fields of scientific research including the biological sciences, advanced scientific computing, climate science, and engineering. Massachusetts universities and scientific organizations were awarded more than \$150 million in DOE Office of Science funding in fiscal year 2012.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science account

FY 2015 Request: \$5.25 billion

FY 2014 Enacted: \$5.15 billion

President's Budget: \$4.97 billion

NASA's footprint in Massachusetts is profound, and provides valuable learning opportunities at our institutions for both undergraduate and graduate students. NASA's Science Mission Directorate addresses Earth Science, Planetary Science, Astrophysics, and Heliophysics, including programs important to universities like the Space Grant Program. NASA is a key federal contributor to advancing research in the physical sciences on Earth and in space.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space Technology

FY 2015 Request: \$706 million

FY 2014 Enacted: \$576 million

President's Budget: \$706 million

NASA Space Technology develops innovative tools from some of the best minds in science. Moreover, it funds fellowship programs to support the next generation of innovators on Massachusetts campuses.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

FY 2015 Request: \$7.50 billion

FY 2014 Enacted: \$7.17 billion

President's Budget: \$7.26 billion

NSF is the federal government's primary funder of basic research, supporting work across scientific disciplines with the potential to foster breakthrough discoveries. In FY 2012, NSF provided more than 1,400 awards totaling approximately \$457 million to 128 institutions in Massachusetts. NSF makes awards based on intellectual merit and broader societal impact, through a proven system of peer review. Our institutions oppose efforts to undermine the merit review process by singling out specific scientific disciplines for cuts or termination, such as social and behavioral sciences.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

FY 2015 Request: \$155 million

FY 2014 Enacted: \$146 million

President's Budget: \$146 million

NEH provides support for humanities and social science research, which enhance our ability to understand the human condition and human decision-making. It allows our students to learn about and appreciate American history and preserve endangered languages and cultures. NEH programs stimulate creativity and innovation, helping us better understand social and international dimensions of complex scientific questions.