



To: Massachusetts Delegation Legislative Directors, Education LAs and Science LAs

From: **Boston University** – Jennifer Grodsky, Federal Relations
Harvard University – Suzanne Day, Kara Haas, and Peter DeYoe, Office of Federal Relations
Massachusetts Institute of Technology – David Goldston, Philip Lippel, Hannah Frye, and Tom Giancola, Washington Office
Tufts University – Mary Jeka and Rocco DiRicco, Government and Community Relations

Date: March 27, 2024

Re: Fiscal Year 2025 Programmatic Requests

To support your programmatic requests to the Appropriations Committee, please find attached the FY2025 funding priorities for Massachusetts research universities. The Commonwealth is a longstanding national leader in research and education in no small part because of the dedication of its Congressional delegation, and we are grateful for your continued, strong support and partnership as we work together to grow and diversify the innovation and education ecosystem.

Understanding the fiscal and political challenges heading into the FY2025 process, we appreciate that progress will have to be hard-won, but we believe that these programs are of exceptional value to your constituents and the Commonwealth, bringing significant benefits, near term and long, for our economy, health, and well-being. Despite progress in recent years, many of these agencies and programs are underfunded relative to the commitments and priorities established by Congress and the White House, and we urge you to match that ambition with robust federal investments.

Specifically, we encourage you to prioritize funding for agencies and programs that expand and support college access and affordability, like the effort to double the Pell Grant, and advance scientific research and innovation in areas ranging from Alzheimer's and artificial intelligence to climate and quantum information science. These are all areas in which the Commonwealth is uniquely positioned to lead, and which make a real difference for your constituents. These priorities build on past successes, such as the last year's successful effort to bring the ARPA-H Investment Catalyst Hub to the Greater Boston area to round out our state's vibrant life sciences sector. Massachusetts entities successfully compete for \$3.5 billion annually from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to enable transformational progress in disease and disability prevention, treatment, and cures. Our priorities also include the significant scientific investments called for the CHIPS & Science Act, particularly investments in the National Science Foundation (NSF), which suffered significant cuts in FY24. For these reasons, NIH, NSF, and the Pell Grant represent our highest priorities.

So many of our grand challenges will be solved through education and innovation, and at this watershed moment, it is imperative that Congress prioritize these investments for today and tomorrow. With Massachusetts's leadership in these areas dependent on robust federal investments, we appreciate your continued support and all your hard work on behalf of our institutions, students, faculty, and staff.

Thank you for considering these requests. We will submit them jointly through your respective forms and processes as well. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with questions or for more information.

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

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

FY 2025 Request: At least \$51.3 billion for NIH

FY 2024 Enacted: \$47.1

President's Budget Request: \$50.1 billion

Dear Colleague: Generally circulated by Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)

More than 200 Massachusetts institutions successfully competed for over \$3.5 billion in funding from NIH in FY2023. At our universities, researchers are making discoveries to advance treatments and cures for diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and mental health disorders. NIH also provides irreplaceable training support to students and early career biomedical researchers; this support must be expanded grow a workforce that is diverse as well as excellent. Our request would allow the agency to keep pace with inflation as well as ensure real growth in NIH-funded research. Support for the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Health (ARPA-H) should complement, not displace, the diverse investments in biomedical research at NIH.

Advanced Research Projects Agency – Health (ARPA-H)

FY 2025 Request: \$1.5 billion

FY 2024 Enacted: \$1.5 billion

President's Budget Request: \$1.5 billion

ARPA-H seeks to transform health care by bringing together a variety of scientific disciplines to tackle specific health problems that require research breakthroughs, serving as an important complement to NIH, which focuses more on discovery research. Modeled on DARPA, ARPA-H is investing in high-risk, high-reward research using nimble contracting approaches and bold, cross-disciplinary milestone-driven projects to accelerate the development of health solutions that will be accessible to diverse populations. We support \$1.5 billion for ARPA-H, the same level as FY2024, which will allow the new agency to implement exciting projects and initiatives, like the newly announced Sprint for Women's Health that is led by the ARPA-H Investor Catalyst Hub in Cambridge. It also will ensure continued support for recently announced awards, like the MIT effort to develop new treatments for metabolic disorders, and the Harvard-led effort involving 25 states to combat antibiotic resistance.

Department of Education, Pell Grants

FY 2025 Request: \$13,000 Maximum Award

FY 2024 Enacted: \$7,395

President's Budget Request: \$8,145 Maximum Award

Although Congress made a significant downpayment on the Pell Grant program in FY2022 and 2023, we encourage you to continue to work toward the doubling of the maximum award for students with the most financial need. As you understand, the Pell Grant program is the cornerstone of the federal student aid portfolio, providing more than \$400 million to help more than 90,000 students attend Massachusetts colleges and universities. Our universities supplement the Pell Grant and other federal aid programs by providing students with our own institutional aid. Through these federal and institutional investments, we can maintain affordability and outstanding educational quality.

Department of Education, Federal Work Study (FWS)

FY 2025 Request: \$1.60 billion

FY 2024 Enacted: \$1.23 billion

President's Budget Request: \$1.23 billion

Dear Colleague: Generally circulated by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

Federal Work Study helps student succeed in college and prepare for the world of work. Massachusetts universities participate in campus-based student aid programs at a very high level, with nearly 19,000 students in Massachusetts receiving FWS in the 2020-21 academic year.

Department of Education, Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

FY 2025 Request: \$1.150 billion

FY 2024 Enacted: \$910 million

President’s Budget Request: \$910 million

Dear Colleague: Generally circulated by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

Campus-based student aid programs, like Federal Work Study and SEOG, help students by leveraging federal dollars with universities’ own aid. SEOG awards are available to students with “exceptional need” and are an important complement to the Pell Grant program. More than 46,000 students in Massachusetts received SEOG during the 2020-21 academic year.

Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences

FY 2025 Request: \$900 million

FY 2024 Enacted: \$793.1 million

President’s Budget Request: \$815.5 million

Dear Colleague: Generally circulated by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)

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. IES is the only federal agency exclusively devoted to funding educational research and is playing a critical role in understanding learning loss due to the pandemic. A 2022 National Academies report laid out an equity-oriented science agenda for IES; an infusion of funds is needed to make this goal a reality.

Department of Education, International Education and Foreign Language

FY 2025 Request: \$91 million

FY 2024 Enacted: \$85.7 million

President’s Budget Request: \$81.5 million

Dear Colleague: Generally circulated by Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Todd Young (R-IN)

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, including Eurasia, Africa, and the Middle East. In an increasingly interconnected world, these international education programs are an essential means for Massachusetts to develop a globally fluent citizenry.

Department of Education, Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)

FY 2025 Request: \$35 million

FY 2024 Enacted: \$23.5 million

President’s Budget Request: \$23.5 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. Our request is the program’s authorized level.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

National Science Foundation (NSF)

FY 2025 Request: \$11.9 billion

FY 2024 Enacted: \$9.06 billion

President's Budget Request: \$10.2 billion

Dear Colleague: Generally circulated by Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA)

Dear Colleague: Circulated by Reps. Joe Neguse (D-CO) and Brian Fitzpatrick; Deadline: 4/19

NSF is a major federal funder of basic research in science and engineering, supporting work across scientific disciplines with the potential to expand the frontiers of knowledge and support discovery. NSF also supports STEM education and training in programs that are available through K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions, and informal settings, like the Boston Science Museum, and seeks to grow the future STEM workforce. In FY2023, NSF provided nearly 1,200 competitive awards in Massachusetts, totaling more than \$572 million. Congress recognized the enormous role NSF plays in the American innovation ecosystem when it enacted the CHIPS & Science Act (P.L. 177-167), authorizing historic funding increases to meet the societal challenges of our time. However, the agency's budget was cut by 8% in FY24, threatening the promise of the new law. Providing \$11.9 billion will allow the agency to fund additional meritorious proposals across all its research directorates, including the recently established TIP Directorate for use-inspired research in critical fields like AI, machine learning, and robotics, and to implement the numerous new programs and policies authorized in the CHIPS & Science Act, such as provisions to enhance research security and integrity.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science account

FY 2025 Request: \$9 billion

FY 2024 Enacted: \$7.33 billion

President's Budget Request: \$7.57 billion

NASA is a key federal contributor to advancing research in the physical sciences on Earth and in space, and NASA-funded climate research is critical to understanding our planet. Massachusetts institutions continue to play key roles in major NASA missions. Researchers seek funding through the Science Mission Directorate's pool of grants, which are divided across the Directorate's four discipline-specific Divisions and the Space Grant Program to encourage space education. According to the agency's most recent fiscal year data, NASA provided educational institutions in Massachusetts with more than \$45 million.

DEFENSE

Department of Defense (DOD) Basic (6.1) Research

FY 2025 Request: \$3.42 billion

FY 2024 Enacted: \$2.60 billion

President's Budget Request: \$2.45 billion

Our institutions support strong investments of at least six percent growth in basic research, or 6.1 programs, within the Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Defense-wide, including those program elements that support extramural research, fellowships, and partnerships across a wide variety of scientific fields from biomedicine to critical technology areas like AI and biotechnology. We support investments in the University Research Initiatives programs, sustained funding for the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative, which supports teams of faculty conducting research in high priority fields

that cross typical scientific disciplines, and continued support for the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships program, which provides fellowships for doctoral students pursuing a degree of interest to the DOD. We also support the Minerva Initiative, a social science research program that deepens understanding of social, cultural, and political forces of strategic importance. These programs underscore the breadth of scientific inquiry, discovery, and innovation that the Department of Defense supports through all its branches.

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

FY 2025 Request: \$4.34 billion

FY 2024 Enacted: \$4.11 billion

President's Budget Request: \$4.37 billion

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) funds high-risk, high-reward research that can lead to innovative applications for the warfighter. DARPA is known for its willingness to fund ambitious research, leading to game changing technologies such as GPS, automated voice recognition, and the Internet.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science

FY 2025 Request: \$9.5 billion

FY 2024 Enacted: \$8.2 billion

President's Budget Request: \$8.6 billion

Dear Colleague: Generally circulated by Reps. Bill Foster (D-IL), and Randy Weber (R-TX)

Dear Colleague: Generally circulated by Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

The DOE Office of Science is a key funder of discovery-based and use-inspired basic research in fields including physics, chemistry, materials science, environmental science, advanced scientific computing, biology, and applied mathematics. Massachusetts universities and scientific organizations received more than \$64 million in DOE Office of Science funding in fiscal year 2022. Massachusetts scientists also take advantage of world-class user facilities at the ten DOE National Laboratories funded through the Office of Science. Congress recognized the importance of the Office of Science in the CHIPS and Science Act, and an investment of \$9.5 billion will ensure the Office has the resources it needs to begin to support the Act's authorized programs, including those focused on regional and national clean energy innovation.

DOE Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy

FY 2025 Request: not less than \$500 million

FY 2024 Enacted: \$460 million

President's Budget Request: \$450 million

ARPA-E supports early-stage energy technologies with transformational potential to lessen our reliance on energy imports, reduce energy-related emissions such as greenhouse gases, and improve energy efficiency. The request would allow the agency to continue its work on the technologies needed for the transition to a net zero economy. It would enable the agency to solicit targeted proposals for new efforts to develop technologies that address the impacts of climate change, and provide funding through the SCALEUP program to support previous ARPA-E awardees as they to continue push their technologies toward commercialization. There are currently 43 active ARPA-E awards in the Commonwealth.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science and Technology

FY 2025 Request: \$967 million

FY 2024 Enacted: \$758.1 million

President's Budget Request: \$1.01 billion

EPA's Science and Technology (S&T) programs provide the foundation for credible decision-making to safeguard human health and ecosystems from environmental pollutants. EPA supports research in several areas, including air quality, chemical safety, climate change, water, and homeland security, among others, and is a key pillar to the President's efforts to advance environmental justice and equity.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

FY 2025 Request: \$225 million

FY 2024 Enacted: \$207 million

President's Budget Request: \$200.1 million

Dear Colleague: Generally circulated by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Reps. Dina Titus (D-NV) and Mike Carey (R-OH)

NEH provides support for humanities research, education, preservation, and public programs in areas such as history, preserving endangered languages and cultures, and literature. NEH programs stimulate creativity and innovation, helping us better understand the social and international dimensions of complex questions, as well as enhancing the quality of life for MA residents. Over the last five years, Massachusetts civic organizations, historical societies, museums, filmmakers, and universities have successfully competed for more than 250 NEH-funded grants.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

FY 2025 Request: \$225 million

FY 2024 Enacted: \$207 million

President's Budget Request: \$210 million

NEA provides support for Americans to participate in and engage with the arts across a wide variety of media and programs, including exhibits, concerts, readings, and other performances. This commitment to the arts – through state, local, and public-private partnerships – shares the benefits of these programs with every district in every state. In the past five years, the NEA distributed more than \$31.9 million in grants in Massachusetts.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

FY2025 Request: \$500 million

FY2024 Enacted: \$445.2 million

President's Budget Request: \$475 million

AFRI is the leading organization for competitive research grants in agricultural sciences. Massachusetts institutions play key roles in grant programs that support increased food production, improvement of food security, and enhancing human nutrition. Increased funding for this program will provide additional grant opportunities to continue this work and train the next generation of the agricultural research workforce.