December 10, 2013

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your steadfast support for science and education. Your efforts, most recently in your work and vote to re-open the federal government, ensure that researchers can continue the critical work of pursuing innovations and breakthroughs that save lives and improve quality of life. We know there are many priorities you are balancing and appreciate that you have consistently viewed research and education as key investments.

Your advocacy is even more critical as we approach the prospect of another round of sequestration budget cuts and final funding levels for fiscal year 2014. We urge you to work toward a budget agreement that eliminates sequestration and supports investment in research and education. For a region already coping with the erosion of promised research funds and the reduction of job opportunities caused by both the shutdown and the first year of sequester, the risk of further instability in the research enterprise is turning away a generation of potential innovators from scientific careers. More than half of U.S. economic growth since World War II is a consequence of technological innovation, overwhelmingly resulting from federally funded scientific research. Failure to close the nation's innovation deficit will slow or stall groundbreaking research that is essential to the New England economy and which leads to breakthroughs in health care and new innovations that will spur economic growth and prosperity.

Thank you again for your leadership. We recognize that, particularly in times of significant fiscal restraint, we are fortunate to have a Congressional delegation composed of staunch advocates for science and education.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Brown
President, Boston University

Christina Paxson
President, Brown University

Drew Gilpin Faust
President, Harvard University

L. Rafael Reif
President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Peter Salovey
President, Yale University