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

From: **Boston University** – Jennifer Grodsky and Emily Burlij, Federal Relations
Harvard University – Suzanne Day and Jon Groteboer, Office of Federal Relations
Massachusetts Institute of Technology – William Bonvillian, Philip Lippel, and Kate Stoll, Washington Office

Date: March 9, 2015

Re: FY 2016 Programmatic Requests for Federal Science and Education Agencies

With the Appropriations Committee soliciting your office's priorities for fiscal year 2016, 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 requests to the Appropriations Committee; please let us know if we can provide any further information or assistance.

Federal support for research and student aid makes it possible for Massachusetts's 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 and student support 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.

The annual cuts to federal discretionary funding enacted under the Budget Control Act of 2011 have taken a significant toll on the science and education programs at the heart of the longstanding partnership between the federal government and higher education community. While the budget agreement for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 did not fully restore the damage the sequester inflicted, we are grateful its temporary softening at least slowed our precipitous decline.

With the Budget Control Act caps scheduled to resume for fiscal year 2016, we once again face the prospect of further instability in the research enterprise and in academic quality. We cannot continue to reduce funding for our research and education agencies without irreversible damage. 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) 2016 Appropriations Priorities

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

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
FY 2016 Request: At least $32 billion
FY 2015 Enacted: $30.3 billion
President's Budget: $31.3 billion
Dear Colleague: Circulated by Reps. David McKinley (R-WV), Andre Carson (D-IN), Susan Davis (D-CA) and Peter King (R-NY); Contact Audrey Smith (Rep. McKinley), Erica Powell (Rep. Carson), Matt Weiner (Rep. Susan Davis), or Jamie Tricarico (Rep. King) Deadline: March 20
Dear Colleague: Circulated by Sens. Bob Casey (D-PA) and Richard Burr (R-NC); Contact: Sara Marby (Sen. Casey) or Angela Boothe (Sen. Burr) Deadline: March 24

Massachusetts institutions received over $2.38 billion in funding from NIH in FY 2013. Our researchers are making discoveries 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 2016 Request: $5,915 Maximum Discretionary Award
FY 2015 Enacted: $5,775 Maximum Discretionary Award
President's Budget: $5,915 Maximum Discretionary Award

The Pell Grant program is the foundation of federal student aid, helping approximately 138,000 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.

FY 2016 Federal Work Study (FWS) Request: At least $990 million
FY 2015 FWS Enacted: $989.7 million
President's Budget: $989.7 million

Massachusetts universities participate in campus-based student aid programs at a very high level, with an FWS allocation of nearly $44 million in the 2014-15 academic year. FWS helps student succeed in college and prepare for the world of work.

FY 2016 Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) Request: $757 million
FY 2015 SEOG Enacted: $733 million
President's Budget: $733 million

Campus-based student aid programs help students by leveraging federal dollars with universities' own aid. SEOG awards are available to students with "exceptional need," and $757 million would restore funding to the program's fiscal year 2010 level.

Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences
FY 2016 Request: $676 million
FY 2015 Enacted: $574 million
President's Budget: $676 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.

Department of Education, International Education and Foreign Language
FY 2016 Request: At least $76 million
FY 2015 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, including 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.

Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)
FY 2016 Request: $31 million
FY 2015 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.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

National Science Foundation (NSF)
FY 2016 Request: $7.72 billion
FY 2015 Enacted: $7.34 billion
President's Budget: $7.72 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 2014, NSF provided more than 1,200 awards totaling approximately $461 million to 104 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.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science account
FY 2016 Request: $5.49 billion
FY 2015 Enacted: $5.24 billion
President's Budget: $5.29 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, and funds the Space Grant Program to encourage space education. 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 2016 Request: $725 million
FY 2015 Enacted: $596 million
President's Budget: $725 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.

DEFENSE

Department of Defense (DOD) Basic (6.1) Research
FY 2016 Request: $2.43 billion
FY 2015 Enacted: $2.28 billion
President's Budget: $2.09 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.

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
FY 2016 Request: $2.97 billion
FY 2015 Enacted: $2.91 billion
President's Budget: $2.97 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 research that others may be hesitant to support, leading to game changing technologies such as GPS and the Internet.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Science
FY 2016 Request: $5.34 billion
FY 2015 Enacted: $5.06 billion
President's Request: $5.34 billion
Dear Colleague: Circulated by Reps. Randy Hultgren (R-IL), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Dan Newhouse (R-WA) and Bill Foster (D-IL); Contact: Andrew Mooney (Rep. Hultgren), Brian Crone (Rep. Lujan), Jason Herbert (Rep. Newhouse), or Amy Kelbick (Rep. Foster) Deadline: March 16

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 $79 million in DOE Office of Science funding in fiscal year 2013.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
FY 2016 Request: $155 million
FY 2015 Enacted: $146 million
President's Budget: $148 million

NEH provides support for humanities and social science research, such as history and preserve endangered languages and cultures, and literature. NEH programs stimulate creativity and innovation, helping us better understand social and international dimensions of complex scientific questions.