

September 22, 2025

Senator Ed Markey

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of Boston University, I write to express strong support for the Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) model proposed by the Joint Associations Group on Indirect Costs (JAG), a group of scientific, academic, and medical organizations who have developed a new financial model for government-funded research.

Federal investments in scientific research at institutions like BU are essential to promoting and protecting Americans' health, prosperity, and national security while maintaining our global leadership in innovation. "Facilities and Administrative" (F&A) or "indirect" costs—such as lab maintenance, utilities, security, data processing, and regulatory compliance—are critical aspects of conducting research.

We appreciate the language included in several Senate appropriations bills that acknowledges the work of the JAG and blocks federal agencies from implementing F&A caps or altering reimbursement methods. As the appropriations process continues, I hope you will consider:

- Telling Senate Appropriations Committee leaders that you support their work to ensure OMB and federal agencies respect this community-driven effort.
- Supporting legislative actions to implement the FAIR model.
- Ensuring that any transition to a new F&A model includes a minimum two-year implementation period, as recommended by the JAG, to allow for a smooth and effective acclimation to the new model.

JAG developed the new financial model in response to proposals from several federal research agencies to cap F&A reimbursement at 15%. If implemented, this arbitrary cap would significantly harm BU's ability to conduct cutting-edge research and would jeopardize our ability to make future scientific breakthroughs.

The FAIR model will enhance transparency in federal research funding and ensure that institutions are reimbursed for the real costs of conducting federally funded research. We respectfully ask for your support for this effort and the accompanying provisions in the Senate's fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills and the National Defense Authorization Act.

Thank you for championing the Commonwealth's research enterprise. Your investment in research and education makes it possible for Boston University's researchers and students to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Gilliam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" and the last name "Gilliam" clearly distinguishable.

Melissa Gilliam  
President