



One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 230 • Washington, DC 20036-1173
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May 19, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations for Graduate Education Programs

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

I am writing to urge you to increase support for the two major graduate education programs at the U.S. Department of Education: the Jacob K. Javits Fellowships and Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN).

These two programs provide critical support to graduate students in key fields of national need and in the humanities and the arts. They differ from all other federal graduate education programs in that students are required to demonstrate superior academic achievement *and* financial need.

Both programs are flat-funded in the administration's budget, and until the FY 2009 omnibus, both had been cut or flat-funded every year since 2002. Despite the FY 09 increases, both still had lower funding and awarded many fewer fellowships this year than in 2002.

The Javits Fellowship program is the only federal program that supports graduate students in the humanities and arts. It is highly competitive, receiving an average of over 1,000 applications annually for 40-65 awards. Funding cuts and minimal annual increases (averaging less than 1%) in stipend levels have resulted in the number of fellows supported dropping by 45% since 2002.

Due to funding limitations, the GAANN program is able to fund new awards only two out of every three years. Recent statutory changes have greatly expanded the pool of institutions eligible for GAANN grants and increased the number of eligible fields of study. Since 2002, funding has declined while eligibility has grown.

The Council of Graduate Schools requests that \$16 million be appropriated for the Javits Fellowship program in FY10, to support 200 new fellows. We ask that GAANN be funded at \$40 million, to support 75 new awards in an effort to ensure that the program can make new awards every year.

I urge you to provide this level of support for two programs that are vital to training experts and leaders in a wide spectrum of fields that are essential to maintaining U.S. economic competitiveness in the 21st century knowledge-based global economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Debra W. Stewart'.

Debra W. Stewart
President

cc: Members of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies



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May 19, 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations for Graduate Education Programs

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