



One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 430 • Washington, DC 20036-1173
(202) 223-3791 • www.cgsnet.org

May 30, 2006

The Honorable Rush Holt
1019 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Holt:

I am writing to commend you for introducing a bill package to strengthen U.S. math and science education. The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and its 460 member institutions are grateful for your leadership in addressing the important issue of boosting American competitiveness and for your recognition of the role of graduate education in this process.

We are specifically supportive of H.R. 5139, the STEM Scholarship Database Act, for including post-baccalaureate fellowships, and of the inclusion of a master's degree option in H.R. 5141, the "ACTION" Act.

Supporting graduate education, particularly in STEM fields, is critical to achieving the highly-trained workforce needed for the U.S. to compete effectively in the 21st century global economy.

Thank you for your leadership on this important policy matter. The Council of Graduate Schools looks forward to working with you to implement this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra W. Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Debra W. Stewart
President

AFFILIATES

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of Southern
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