Endorsement of the Endless Frontier Act

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) represents the nearly 7,000 graduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). We support policies that strengthen American science and technology while ensuring American economic competitiveness. Therefore, we heartily support the S.3832 and H.R. 6978 Endless Frontier Act (EFA) and thank you for your leadership in putting forth this bold science and technology strategy that our nation needs.

American investment in science is faltering. In 2018, investment in research & development was the smallest percentage of the federal budget since 1962. If we are to sustain American leadership into the 21st century, we must invest in research and build a thriving technological ecosystem. We must expand fundamental research at Universities and strengthen the bond between industry and academia. Most importantly, we must ensure that we build a diverse and capable workforce as the future of innovation and research begins with them.

The EFA would allocate $100 billion over the next five years for technology research and development; create at least 2,000 graduate student fellowships and 1,000 post-doctoral fellowships; and authorize $10 billion to build at least 10 regional technology centers across America, all of which we support. The EFA proposes to do this by building a new technology directorate within the National Science Foundation, an organization of high caliber and competence, that preserves the basic science mission of the agency while aggressively pushing the convergence research mission that is crucial to our nation’s global competitiveness.

If you would like to know more about the importance of increased research funding for graduate students and our nation’s global competitiveness, or would like to discuss additional methods of advancing graduate education and research, please reach out to us at gsc-eab-fed@mit.edu.

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