Endorsement of the RISE Act of 2020

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) represents the nearly 7,000 graduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). We support policies that promote the strength and resiliency of funding for graduate researchers. Therefore, we heavily endorse the Research Investment to Spark the Economy (RISE) Act and applaud its bipartisan introduction into both the House and Senate.

Today’s graduate students are tomorrow’s leaders in research and innovation. Without immediate targeted relief to support federally funded research personnel in restarting and completing projects despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the training pipeline that enables America’s scientific advancement and economic innovation will be interrupted. The disruptions caused by COVID-19 create delays in critical research progress, leading to increased graduation times for students who lead these projects, causing research groups to either delay taking on the next generation of students or strand those in-progress students without funding.

The RISE Act is a crucial investment in the momentum of America's research enterprise, supporting research personnel and enabling the safe restart of critical research projects by providing much needed emergency relief funds for federal science agencies. We appreciate the leadership shown by Representatives DeGette, Upton, Johnson (TX), Lucas, Eshoo, and Gonzalez (OH) as well as by Senators Markey, Tillis, Peters, and Gardner for the introduction of the RISE Act in their respective chambers and urge its swift passage.

If you would like to know more about the impact that COVID-19 has on graduate students and the research enterprise 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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