Dear Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Lucas, Subcommittee on Research and Technology Chairwoman Haley Stevens (D-MI), and Ranking Member Michael Waltz,

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 research and innovation while ensuring American economic competitiveness. **We heartily endorse the NSF for the Future Act and believe that it will strengthen the scientific community.**

We also deeply appreciate the many aspects of the bill that improve graduate student life and believe it will lead to a more robust scientific enterprise. **In particular, we strongly support the language supporting graduate STEM education, including mentoring and development plans; funds for career exploration; programs to support historically underserved institutions; and mechanisms for further study of the graduate workforce.** Any bill which seeks to strengthen the American innovation ecosystem must address these challenges, as the graduate students of today are the research leaders of tomorrow, and we are very pleased to see these measures proposed here.

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.

*Prepared by the External Affairs Board on behalf of the MIT Graduate Student Council. April 2021.*