April 5, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) wishes to express our thanks on behalf of the 600,000 graduate and professional students we represent, for the Administration’s policy memorandum on February 22, 2013 to open access to federally funded research.

Open Access to federally funded research is an important issue for our members. We have published an op-ed in the Washington Post, signed the We the People petition, and submitted public comments urging these policies. Students frequently struggle to gain access to journal articles to complete their research in timely and efficient ways. The rising cost of journal subscriptions has been prohibitively expensive for our libraries and for institutions without significant resources. This has meant that many articles paid for by taxpayers are simply unavailable to students and the general public. Open access to federally-funded research will provide students the access they need and will open science and research to the American people who have funded our nation’s investment. We support your directive to agencies with more than $100 million in Research and Development to develop plans to provide federally-funded research to the public within a year of its publication.

As your office continues to develop and oversee plans for implementing the federal initiative for open access to federally-funded research, NAGPS stands ready to assist you. Your offices may contact us at

office@nagps.org  (202) 643-8043  www.nagps.org

Sincerely,

Jared Voskuhl, M.A.
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