



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS



What Are Graduate Students Asking For?

60% of the fastest growing occupations require graduate degrees. The continued welfare of the US workforce requires graduate students to complete their training in a reasonable time and with reasonable support. The following requests will help make this happen.

These items are a high priority for NAGPS, and we will continue to monitor their progress.

Attract and Retain High-Skilled Students

International Students contribute billions of dollars to the US economy each year, particularly in STEM fields. It is vital that we adopt policies that continue to attract these brilliant innovators and that we expand their access to permanent residency.

S. 386 / H.R. 1044 - Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019

Request Amendment

We request that half of all EB-2 visas be reserved annually for applicants who have (1) earned advanced degrees from the United States and (2) have spent at least 5 years in the country. We refer to these reserved positions as domestically-earned EB-2 visas. We also request that once the backlog for petitioners with domestically-earned EB-2 visas has cleared, priority for these visas will be given to others with US-earned advanced degrees, regardless of country of origin.

S.1744 - Keep STEM Talent Act of 2019

Support

Increase the Affordability of Graduate School

When graduate students lack adequate financial support, they are more likely to take on additional jobs that delay their graduation. They are also more likely to take on burdensome student loans. The following legislation would increase access to subsidized loans and reduce the tax burden of attending graduate school.

H.R. 3418 - Protecting our Students by Terminating Graduate Rates that Add to Debt Act

Support

H.R. 1842 - GAP Act

Support

H.R. 1554 - REDI Act

Support

S. 768 / H.R.1707 - Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act

Support

Expand and Improve Mental Health Resources

Graduate students are facing a growing mental health crisis, contributed in large part due to our work conditions. In order to ensure students successfully complete their degrees and enter the workforce, we need more resources dedicated to combating this crisis.

S.1204 - Higher Education Mental Health Act of 2019

Request Amendment

We request that this legislation include graduate-specific information, namely campus mental health and quality of life statistics as well as research program- and advisor-level completion and placement rate of graduate students.

H.R.4327 - Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act

Support

Increase the Transparency of Graduate Programs

Graduate students relocate across the country, and sometimes the world, in order to do research under one of a few potential research advisors in their field. This research relationship is the highest predictor of success in grad school. Unfortunately, many of these advisors lack adequate training in appropriate mentorship behavior, and as a result, many students are subject to neglectful, exploitative, and abusive behaviors. It is vital that transparent information regarding potential advisors be available to students.

S. 800 / H.R.1766 - College Transparency Act

Request Amendment

We request that this legislation include graduate-specific information, namely campus mental health and quality of life statistics as well as research program- and advisor-level completion and placement rate of graduate students.

Expand Resources for Low-Income Students

Low income students face a variety of additional struggles in graduate school, including high rates of food insecurity, inability to access affordable and quality child care, and increased student loans. The following will help low-income graduate students meet their basic needs and successfully graduate in a timely manner.

H.R. 3334 - Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act of 2019

Support

S.2110 / H.R.3718 - Closing the College Hunger Gap Act of 2019

Support

S. 2143 / H.R.3809 - College Student Hunger Act of 2019

Support

H.R.2632 - CCAMPIS Reauthorization Act

Support

S.1403 - Expanding On-Campus Child Care to Help Student Parents Succeed Act

Support

H.R.4297 - Enhance Access To SNAP Act of 2019

Support

S. 1036 / H.R.2107 - Affordable College Textbook Act

Support

Improve Diversity in Graduate Education

All students, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, heritage, or gender, should have access to graduate education. We support the following legislation in their efforts to narrow achievement gaps for underrepresented and marginalized populations.

S.943 / H.R. 2006 - College Equity Act of 2019

Support

S.1964 / H.R.3513 - Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act of 2019

Support

S.461 / H.R.1054 - HBCU PARTNERS Act

Support

H.R.2528 - STEM Opportunities Act of 2019

Support

H.R. 1494 - Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Homeland Security Partnerships Act

Support

Prevent Harassment and Discrimination, and Improve Outcomes for Victims

Graduate students face a variety of obstacles in completing their degree, including harassment, discrimination, and domestic and sexual violence. The following items will help minimize the instances of these as well as improve outcomes for victims of them.

S.1483 - Survivor Outreach and Support Campus Act

Support

S. 627 / H.R.1468 - SAFE Act of 2019

Support

S.1492 / H.R. 2747- Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2019

Support

H.R.5 / S.788 - Equality Act

Support

S.1067 / H.R.36 - Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019

Support

H.R.3381 - Hold Accountable and Lend Transparency (HALT) on Campus Sexual Violence Act

Support