



AWIS
ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Moran
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jennifer McClellan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Moran, Senator Padilla, and Representative McClellan,

On behalf of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS), I am writing to express our strong support for the Relieving Economic Strain to Enhance American Resilience and Competitiveness in Higher Education and Research Act (RESEARCHER Act). This legislation is a critical step towards addressing the financial instability faced by graduate and postdoctoral researchers - a group that makes vital contributions to the scientific enterprise during their advanced training.

An AWIS Member shared, "As a graduate-level neuroscientist in Washington, DC, I am personally impacted by the financial burden placed on graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. We don't have access to subsidized housing at my institution, meaning that students end up spending 50% or more of their paycheck on housing alone. The result is hard-working adults who can barely afford their basic needs like food, routine healthcare, transportation, or financial emergencies."

For over 50 years, AWIS has advocated for the development of a robust scientific workforce. To attract and retain the best scientists, organizations must embrace policies that ensure fair pay and financial stability. AWIS is proud to endorse the RESEARCHER Act and support those individuals who are developing solutions and innovations that strengthen the competitiveness of the American science and technology ecosystem.

We commend your leadership in introducing this vital legislation and urge your colleagues to support the RESEARCHER Act. Thank you for your commitment to advancing STEM research.

Sincerely,

Meredith Gibson, CAE
Chief Executive Officer