

December 6, 2017

Dear Senator or Representative,

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, I am writing to urge you to sign on to the “Dear Colleague” letter from House Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions, which strongly opposes the provision in the House version of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) that would repeal the income exclusion for graduate student tuition waivers.

More than half (55 percent) of all master's and PhD candidates who serve as teaching or research assistants have adjusted gross incomes of \$20,000 or less. The increased tax burden created by the provision in H.R. 1 would present a significant financial challenge to *current* students and will discourage the *future* pipeline of scientific and biomedical researchers. To remain the world leader in advancing scientific knowledge and innovation, the US must not penalize its students for pursuing higher education.

The Endocrine Society has more than 18,000 members dedicated to advancing hormone research towards the development of treatments and therapies for endocrine diseases such as diabetes, cancer, obesity, thyroid disease, osteoporosis, and infertility. We are worried that the proposed change in the tax code eliminating the graduate tuition waiver would significantly impede scientific progress in these areas as the next generation of scientists would seek opportunities outside the United States, or may even stop pursuing research careers altogether.

We urge you to sign on to Chairman Sessions’ “Dear Colleague” letter and to encourage your colleagues to do the same and to block efforts to tax tuition waivers for graduate students. The deadline for sign-on is Friday, December 8th at 12:00 p.m. Members interested in signing on to the letter or with questions should contact Ron Donado at ron.donado@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Barbara Byrd Keenan
CEO, Endocrine Society