



UAW Local 4121

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June 9, 2008

The Honorable Rick Larsen
United States House of Representatives
107 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4702

Dear Congress Member Larsen,

I am writing on behalf of UAW Local 4121, which represents approximately 4,500 Academic Student Employees at the University of Washington, to urge your support for HR 2764, the FY08 Supplemental Appropriations Bill. This bill includes critical appropriations for NIH and NSF budgets, which fund research supported by thousands of our members who work as undergraduate and graduate research assistants and trainees. The work of our members that benefits the community through understanding and treating infectious disease, heart disease, and cancer, as well as the basic science that forms the foundation for this work, could be severely compromised if not continued at a greater level of funding.

Academic Student Employees help contribute a great deal to our local economy – both before and after they graduate – through advances in engineering, biotech, health and life sciences, social sciences, humanities and many other kinds of research. By compromising the funding provided to support quality research we also risk compromising our competitive standing internationally. While other countries are increasing their investment in federal R&D, the U.S. is decreasing ours, and long-term innovation will likely suffer as a result. Please support this bill to help begin reversing this trend.

Sincerely,

David Parsons
President

cc: Washington State Congressional Delegation