

January 10, 2012

Chatham University Graduate Student Assembly

c/o Chatham University

Woodland Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15232

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the Graduate Student Assembly of Chatham University in Pittsburgh, PA, are writing to you in support of legislation for Request for Information (RFI) on Public Access. As an institution with undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate studies in various realms of academia, it is pertinent that our students have access to the most current research available to them; especially when that research and the products thereof are publicly funded by their and their families' tax dollars.

Within our institution, nearly every department would benefit from the more efficient and more available information that this legislation will provide. In the sciences alone, Open Access will drive productivity, lead to an increase of follow-up research, provide innovations for new avenues of research, allow students to incorporate up-to-date findings in their current research, prevent overlaps and/or repetitiveness in research, as well as keep our student competitive in the expanding market of scientific research. In addition, it is necessary that this access to current information come with the legal rights to reuse the information with proper citations documented.

Restrictions that limit the use of this research information limit the value of this information to the citizens who paid for it to be completed in the first place. As such, enabling full reuse will mean that students can do more with less; research will not have to be duplicated in order to build on the results that have already been validly documented, extracting value from a single research-investment for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Signed,

The Chatham University Graduate Student Assembly