



# AAG

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
*of* GEOGRAPHERS

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## **AAG Opposes Taxing Graduate Student Tuition Waivers**

On Nov. 16, 2017, the U.S. House of Representatives passed tax reform legislation that would make tuition waivers for graduate students taxable income. This would have the effect of significantly increasing taxes for many graduate students.

We have been monitoring this issue in recent weeks and have endorsed sign-on letters with the March for Science and others opposing the House graduate student provision. A separate tax package being considered by the Senate would maintain the current exemption for tuition waivers. The Senate bill is significantly different from the House legislation and passage is uncertain because of various controversial provisions. If the Senate bill were to pass, the two houses would still have to reach a compromise that could win support in both chambers.

The American Council of Education, which represents many higher education institutions and organizations in Washington, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science have also sent letters to Congress opposing the change.

As always, we urge AAG members and friends to reach out to your elected officials to express your own views on issues of importance to you. The National Humanities Alliance has created a [weblink](#) that allows individuals to quickly contact their Members of Congress about this tuition waiver issue. However, a direct email, telephone call, or visit with your elected representatives is always the most-impactful form of outreach.