



The University of Georgia

College of Family and Consumer Sciences
*Department of Financial Planning,
Housing and Consumer Economics*

May 28, 2014

NBER Household Finance Working Group
Small Grant Proposal Committee
1050 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

I am pleased to write a letter of support for Wookjae Heo's Research Grant Application. Wookjae is doctoral candidate in the Department of Financial Planning, Housing and Consumer Economics. His research focus is on the interdisciplinary application of consumer vulnerability theory in the areas of aging, psychophysiological health, and financial planning. Funding from the grant will help him test relationships between and among coping strategies—primarily stress reduction models—and financial vulnerability. Aspects of his work will include obtaining a better understanding of the role financial stress plays in altering physiological outcomes and determining intervention strategies that can improve financial outcomes while reducing stress related to financial vulnerability.

Mr. Heo is one of our best and brightest students. To begin with, he has a proven track record of outstanding research. I have had the pleasure of working with him on several research projects. He and I have collaborated on numerous peer reviewed papers and posters where his contributions have been extremely valuable. Other areas of strength include an outstanding knowledge of financial systems, financial and personal counseling, and ethical responses to stress situations.

I have absolutely no qualms about recommending Mr. Heo for Research Grant. He is a team player. He has the ability to think effectively, creatively, and holistically. He has excellent judgment, is flexible, responsible, organized, and has the perseverance to successfully implement and complete his proposal. Additionally, he is excited to be exploring the interconnection between financial planning, psychophysiology, and financial vulnerability. It is difficult to summarize the strengths of someone in two or three paragraphs. I can only say that if the grant committee is looking for someone who will represent the values and characteristics of NBER, then the committee need not look any further: Wookjae is the right person.

If you have any questions about Mr. Heo's capabilities, our department's research policies, or his proposed project, please feel free to contact me directly at grable@uga.edu or at 706.542.4758.

Sincerely,

John Grable, Ph.D., CFP®
CFP Program Director