

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
2132 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee  
2056 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, Chairman Nadler, and Ranking Member Jordan,

On behalf of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and the undersigned organizations, we wanted to express our appreciation for Congress' recent work on the *United States Innovation and Competition Act* (S. 1260) and the *America COMPETES Act of 2022* (H.R. 4521). These bills are integral to increasing the United States' domestic competitiveness and present a unique opportunity for investments in the STEM education and workforce ecosystem. While there are many provisions of the competitiveness package that we support, we write today to thank the House Judiciary Committee for its immigration provisions in the *America COMPETES Act* and encourage Congress to include the Section 80303 from H.R. 4521, or something similar such as Senator Durbin's *Keep STEM Talent Act of 2022* (S.3638), in the final conference package. Allowing doctoral, and in the case of critical industries, master's students with STEM degrees to be exempt from caps on green cards and providing for dual intent to streamline the visa process will strengthen our global competitiveness by making it easier for the best and brightest scientists from around the world to conduct their careers in the United States.

In addition to being supportive of Section 80303 from H.R. 4521, we encourage the definition of STEM programs eligible for the green card cap exemption to be expanded to include all of the Department of Homeland Security's [STEM Designated Degree Program List](#). Expansion of the definition of eligible STEM degrees would increase the number of professionals able to stay in the United States and contribute to our innovation ecosystem. Additionally, we urge Congress to broaden the list of eligible institutions to include all accredited public and non-profit institutions. The current eligibility requirements restrict the waiving of the green card cap to graduates of institutions based on research expenditures or Minority-Serving Institutions with very high or high levels of research activity as determined by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. These requirements leave out talented graduates from many institutions across the United States and should be broadened to capture the full international STEM talent pool.

The American system of higher education attracts the best and brightest students and scientists from around the world, who contribute mightily to our economy and innovation ecosystem. The member institutions of ASEE and the other undersigned organizations greatly benefit from the talent, intelligence, work ethic, and diversity of thought that international faculty and students bring to their

campuses. We are excited by the inclusion of Section 80303 in H.R. 4521, as it would make it easier for STEM graduates to stay in the United States after graduation and use their skills and education to contribute to our national innovation, economic development, and security, and hope to see Section 80303 included in the final conference legislation.

Sincerely,

The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE)  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Mathematical Society  
American Physical Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Sociological Association  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
Association for Materials Protection and Performance  
Association for Women in Mathematics  
Biophysical Society  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Scientific Society Presidents  
Crop Science Society of America  
Duke University  
Ecological Society of America  
Entomological Society of America  
INFORMS  
Materials Research Society  
Minerals, Metals & Materials Society  
New York University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Soil Science Society of America  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
UCLA  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of New Hampshire  
University of Oregon