

encouraged the creation of a more dynamic business environment, and made improvements to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education that are important for our nation's long term economic health.

It is critical that we sustain proper support for scientific research and STEM education, or our ability to compete in the global economy will be put in jeopardy. As the Business Roundtable noted in its Roadmap for Growth, a new report released last week, investing in scientific research and math and science education will create sustained, long-term economic competitiveness and growth. That is why I am proud to support H.R. 5116, which authorizes those much needed investments.

Although the Senate's amendment to H.R. 5116 is a significantly trimmed down version of the House bill, it maintains the key principles of investment and innovation, ensuring America remains competitive in the 21st century global economy.

I am pleased that the bill includes provisions to ensure coordination of federal STEM education activities by elevating an existing committee under the National Science and Technology (NSTC). Providing this coordinating mechanism for the federal STEM education programs is long overdue.

According to the Academic Competitiveness Council's (ACC) report, in 2006 the U.S. sponsored 105 STEM education programs at more than a dozen different federal agencies. These programs devoted approximately \$3.12 billion to STEM education activities spanning pre-kindergarten through postgraduate education and outreach. The report notes that many of these agencies do not share information or work collaboratively on similar programs, demonstrating a need for better coordination.

The STEM education coordination provisions of this bill are similar to those included in my own bill, the Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education (E-STEM) Act, H.R. 2710. Both bills seek to ensure that the various agencies involved in STEM education efforts are aware of what is being done and what has already been done elsewhere so agencies can strategically invest in programs and activities.

Again, I congratulate the Science and Technology Committee and Chairman GORDON for their work on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to ensure that our nation leads the world in innovation and science and technology.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act.

As the United States faces increasing competition in the global economy, we will only maintain our advantage by fostering our ability to innovate. America COMPETES makes the investments necessary to ensure that we remain at the cutting edge of research and development.

The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act is a comprehensive approach to invest in education, research, and small business to grow America's innovation economy. By providing resources for basic research, facilitating the use of new technologies by American manufacturers, and training a new generation of science, technology, math, and engineering (STEM) workers, we can create good, sustain-

able jobs at home and ensure that the United States remains competitive.

The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act creates a path to double basic research funding at NSF, NIST, and DOE's Office of Science over the next ten years. It supports important programs to expand American energy technology and fosters regional innovation clusters and research parks for economic development across the country. And it coordinates STEM education activities across the Federal Government so we can focus resources on our most effective programs.

Madam Speaker, every dollar that we invest in science and technology pays dividends in economic growth and ensures that the United States remains at the forefront of discovery. I thank Chairman GORDON for his work on this issue and urge my colleagues to vote to pass this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Act. To maintain economic growth and a high standard of living, our nation must remain competitive in a global economy. To be competitive, U.S. companies must engage in trade, preserve market shares, and provide sustainable products, processes, and services. Scientific and technological advances serve as critical components of economic growth because they contribute to the creation of new goods, services, jobs, and increased productivity. Our country is in need of innovative concepts and ideas to strengthen our economy both domestically and internationally. The America COMPETES Act will increase the nation's investment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM. Further, COMPETES provides critical federal investment in science through research and education. I am pleased that the 111th Congress will reauthorize this law, and I am pleased that it contains some important elements to broaden the participation of groups of Americans who are underrepresented in STEM fields, such as women and racial or ethnic minorities.

According to the Census Bureau, 39 percent of the population under the age of 18 is a racial or ethnic minority. Yet, in 2003, only 4.4 percent of U.S. science and engineering jobs were held by African Americans and only 3.4 percent by Hispanics. In 2008, the American Community Survey reported that 10.3 percent of the total U.S. population were in the Professional, Scientific, Management and Administrative Services industry; however, only 7.7 percent of Cambodians, 6.8 percent of Hmong, and 5.2 percent of Laotians actually held these types of jobs. Further, women represent only a little more than one quarter of our science and technology workforce. Many experts maintain that the ability of the U.S. to produce enough scientists will fall far short unless we take strong action to develop the potential of women and minorities. Thus, broadening participation efforts are critical to meeting the growing demand for U.S. workers with STEM skills and to improving American competitiveness globally.

Although minorities have increased their share of degrees awarded in the sciences, poor preparation in science and mathematics is a major factor limiting the access of these citizens to careers in the STEM fields. H.R. 5116 helps improve secondary STEM edu-

cation by requiring federal agencies to report how they are disseminating federally funded STEM education resources to practitioners, including to teachers and administrators at high-needs schools. Further, it requires the establishment of an inventory of federally sponsored STEM education programs that must include an assessment of the effectiveness of the programs and the rates of participation of underrepresented minorities in such programs. An increased investment in STEM-based programs will offer more high-level science and mathematics courses in high school, enhance undergraduate and graduate degrees in science and engineering, and solidify employment in science and engineering positions in this global economy. The National Science Foundation will receive substantial funds to develop and implement a policy for the broader impacts review criterion that will result in improving the effectiveness and impact of activities to broaden participation within STEM. Such a policy is long overdue. We spend billions of federal dollars for science advancements but have limited requirements for the institutions receiving these dollars to give back to the nation in terms of helping institutions or students beyond their walls improve their access to quality science.

I support the bill because it advances our nation in the STEM areas; however, I am disappointed that many of the provisions to broaden participation that were included in the House-passed version were absent from the final version. I promise to continue to work to ensure that all Americans have access to high quality STEM education and careers. I support H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Act of 2010; this bill will enhance our present practices in science and our economic strength in the global marketplace.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1781, the previous question is ordered.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 3481. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Federal responsibility for stormwater pollution.

APPOINTMENT—NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN). Pursuant to section 306(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242k), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following member to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a term of 4 years: