

Republicans Jeopardizing Our Country's Future Innovations

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX – 20) issued the following statement after House Republicans blocked the COMPETES Reauthorization Act for the second week in a row, preventing crucial investments in innovative research and math, science, engineering, and technology education to better prepare our students to compete in the global economy of the future:

“America has been at the forefront of innovation over the last century and now, more than ever, we need to step up our efforts,” said Congressman Gonzalez. “Our nation’s brightest minds come from all different backgrounds and this bill would ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to reach their full potential. By blocking this vote, Republicans are jeopardizing our country’s future innovations just to try to score some political points.”

The COMPETES Act supports research and fosters innovation by putting basic research programs on a path to double over ten years. It helps coordinate math and science education programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral levels, and helps improve them by making sure teachers have the training they need to help their students succeed in the global economy.

A report entitled “[The Pivotal Role of Government Investment in Basic Research](#),” released by the [U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee](#)

(JEC) highlights the role of government investment in research and development (R&D), especially in the area of basic research. The report concludes that the US needs to identify and support the next generation of innovations that will create new industries, spur job creation, and fuel economic growth. Because basic research plays a critical role in sparking innovation, it may be prudent for the government to increase its expenditures towards basic research now.

The bill has broad support with the endorsement of more than 750 business, research and academic organizations, including Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, Information Technology Industry Council, Business Roundtable, TechNet, American Council on Education, and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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