

Retain Critical International Education Provisions in Final Innovation and Competition Package

ASK: We urge your support for maintaining provisions important to international education in **H.R. 4521, the America COMPETES Act of 2022** (passed by the House of Representatives on February 4, 2022) and in **S. 1260, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) of 2021** (passed by the Senate on June 8, 2021).

The provisions listed below will make the United States stronger and more competitive globally. They will ensure U.S. students have access to critical international education and foreign language programs that will prepare them to succeed in a global economy. And they will ensure the United States continues to attract and retain the best and brightest students and scholars, particularly in STEM fields.

Immigration and International Students/Scholars:

Allow certain international students and scholars to contribute to the United States by creating an assured path to a green card as well as protect Afghan nationals who participate in State Department exchange programs. **As included in the COMPETES Act, the bill:**

- Exempts international STEM PhD graduates of certain U.S. institutions from existing green card caps, and includes health professions and related programs under the definition of STEM;
- Expands dual intent to STEM PhD international student (F-1) visa applicants by allowing them to express intent to seek a green card after graduation at the time of visa application;
- Exempts international STEM master's degree graduates from existing green card caps IF they work in an industry critical to U.S. national or economic security;
- Creates a special immigrant visa category for essential scientists to promote U.S. national security; and
- Provides special immigrant visas for Afghan nationals currently participating in Fulbright and other State Department-sponsored exchange programs, along with program alumni who returned to Afghanistan.

International Education and Foreign Language Programs:

Reauthorize Education Department Title VI/Fulbright-Hays international education programs, establish a State Department fund for Chinese language study, and restore the State Department's Fulbright program in China and Hong Kong. **Both COMPETES and USICA bills include reauthorization of Title VI/Fulbright-Hays, and we urge the adoption of the language included in USICA, while COMPETES:**

- Establishes the Liu Xiaobo Fund for Study of the Chinese Language at the State Department; and
- Restores the State Department's Fulbright program in China and Hong Kong.

Again, we urge your support for retaining all of the above provisions during the final bill reconciliation process.