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Compete America applauds the introduction of the “STEM Jobs Act of 2012” by House Judiciary Chairman Lamar Smith.

Bill is an important step forward in the ongoing effort to ensure America retains the highly skilled talent trained in US Universities

Washington, DC— Compete America, a coalition dedicated to ensuring that the United States has the highly educated workforce it needs to continue to lead the world in innovation and job creation, issued the following statement regarding the “STEM Jobs Act of 2012”:

“We thank Chairman Lamar Smith and the 40 plus cosponsors of the “STEM Jobs Act of 2012” for their commitment to ensuring America has the skilled workforce it needs to remain the world leader in innovation. We believe this bill is one of many important steps needed to reform our high skilled immigration system, and we look forward to working in a bipartisan fashion to pass critically needed reform legislation that can be signed into law by the president,” said Compete America Executive Director, Scott Corley. “Our finest US universities are producing the next generation of the world’s best STEM graduates every year. When it comes time to recruit these talented individuals to work in the US rather than for our foreign competitors, our own outdated immigration system is hurting the US economy by costing America the proven job creators we desperately need.”

The STEM Act of 2012 will offer the best and the brightest from around the world access to green cards in one of two new employment-based visa categories—EB 6 and EB 7. In particular, foreign professionals who wish to apply for EB 6 and EB 7 green cards must graduate with a doctorate or master’s degree (respectively) from a qualified university in a qualified STEM field and have a job offer. These new visas will greatly boost morale among America’s most talented US educated foreign born professionals, removing a significant obstacle to recruitment and retention of US educated foreign talent. We know these workers are not just inventors and innovators; they are among our best job creators and often go on to start their own businesses employing scores of American workers.

“On first examination, it’s easy to miss the truth about highly skilled foreign professionals. People hear about foreign professionals coming to America and assume that’s a lost opportunity for our domestic workforce. Yet study after study reaches the same conclusion—highly skilled talent in America is a net gain for our economy both in terms of the revenue generated and the US jobs created,” Corley added. “We have high unemployment with no clear end in sight, but not in STEM fields where the unemployment rate for engineers is hovering around 3%. We need to pursue the new economic opportunities and potential in our best and brightest students—regardless of where they are born. The STEM Jobs Act of 2012

will help address one of the key regulatory hurdles these talented foreign professionals face, and in so doing, will help create jobs and jump start the US economy.”

To learn more about the benefits of highly educated foreign-born professionals to the U.S. economy, visit www.competeamerica.org.