



November 12, 2010

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Vance Ablott

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

On behalf of Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education and its member organizations, I am writing to encourage and the members of the U.S. Senate to earnestly pursue the bipartisan passage of the America COMPETES Act reauthorization (S 3605) and to make this a high priority as the 110th Congress nears its completion.

The America COMPETES Act when originally signed into law was a shining example of bipartisan support for America's future. The original legislation provided guidance and funding authorization to truly strengthen American innovation through a comprehensive investment in research and development as well as in STEM education.

As you well know, the strength of America's economy is built on a technologically literate population and a highly skilled workforce of scientists, engineers and mathematicians. The future of economic growth in the United States will depend heavily on our ability to encourage and inspire the next generation of STEM workers. Both the original legislation as well as the proposed reauthorization bills in both the House and Senate not only speak to these issues but also invest in programs to insure that the future remains bright.

Triangle Coalition works as an organization to bring together the voices of education, business, and government to improve the quality of STEM education in America. We greatly appreciate the commitment S 3605 makes to those goals and we know that allowing it to expire would represent a terrible step backwards in broad consensus that has developed around the significance of robust investments STEM education and the R & D fields.

We strongly ask that you make the bipartisan passage of S 3605 a key priority before the end of the current congress.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vance R. Ablott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vance R. Ablott
Executive Director