



May 26, 2010

Dear NAGPS Members,

We are writing to inform you about the status of the **America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (H.R. 5325)**. The COMPETES Act authorizes funding increases during the 2011-2013 fiscal years for the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Office of Science and ARPA-E at the Department of Energy. It also creates and expands programs to improve education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) from K-12 through post-doctoral levels.

H.R. 5325 was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Barton Gordon (D-TN), Chair of the House Science and Technology Committee. It follows a previous bill, H.R. 5116, that failed in the House due to concerns about the overall cost. H.R. 5325 came to a vote in the House on May 19th and did not pass with the two-thirds (2/3) majority required for procedural reasons (261 in favor, 148 opposed). Rep. Gordon aims to bring the bill up for another vote during May. The bill language can be found [here](#).

As graduate student education in STEM fields depends on Federal research support, NAGPS believes that strong research funding is important to maintain American leadership in STEM. We encourage everybody to contact their representatives in Washington DC to show their support for research and education funding in America COMPETES. Contact information for Representatives can be found using the **Write Your Representative [webpage](#)**. Research funding is controversial because of the concern about government spending and national deficit. We believe that continued investment in science and technology will be an important driver of long-term growth. When you contact your representative be sure to explain how Federal funding affects you and your college or university, and state that you support the proposed funding increases in H.R. 5325. Since this is controversial legislation it is critically important that members of Congress hear from people directly affected by this bill.

Sincerely,

Chad Foerster
NAGPS Legislative Concerns Chair

Alex Evans
NAPGS President & CEO