

The Honorable Michael Capuano
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Representative Capuano,

I am a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying for a PhD in Biological Engineering. I am writing regarding the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (H.R. 5325), which was recently considered by the House of Representatives.

Research is an integral part of graduate education in science and engineering, and academic research depends on federal funding. The funding increases authorized by H.R. 5325 for NSF, NIST and DoE will strengthen graduate education in the United States and help continue American leadership in science and technology. Federal funding has been important in my own education by supporting my living stipend through an NSF fellowship. A grant from the National Institutes of Health has supported my research on the molecular changes leading to cancer.

Increased investment in research and development is also important for long-term economic growth. For example, according to the Biotechnology Industry Association, from 1996 to 2007 licensing of technology developed at universities added \$187 billion to the economy and created approximately 280,000 jobs. The Department of Education predicts that demand for scientists and engineers will increase four times faster than other occupations. Strong investment in research and education is the only way Americans will be prepared for these new jobs.

It is likely that H.R. 5325 or a similar bill will come before the House of Representatives in the near future. I hope you will support authorizing increased research and education funding at the levels specified in H.R. 5325.

Sincerely,
Scott Carlson
PhD Candidate, Department of Biological Engineering
Massachusetts Institute of Technology