

(June 8, 2006) Lipinski: Education and Research Key to US Economic Security

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Dan Lipinski expressed his satisfaction with the advancement of legislation aimed at spurring American competitiveness and improving science and math education. With the Congressman's support, the U.S. House Committee on Science yesterday approved two key pieces of legislation, H.R. 5356, The Research for Competitiveness Act, and H.R. 5358, The Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act.

HR 5358 authorizes several programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop and provide training for current teachers, attract science and math majors to teaching, and improve undergraduate education in science, math, and engineering. The legislation also ensures that the programs will be evaluated to make sure that taxpayer money is being spent wisely.

"Good teachers are integral to educating our youth, but they often do not have the tools or training opportunities needed to prepare students for the increasingly competitive economy," said Lipinski. "HR 5358 will help address these needs, ensuring that more highly qualified teachers are in the classroom."

H.R. 5356 creates and expands programs at NSF and the Department of Energy's Office of Science to encourage research and development at the cutting edge of new scientific fields. It particularly emphasizes research for early career scientists to encourage these recent science and engineering graduates to stay in these important fields.

"There is a growing concern that America is falling behind other countries in science, math, and engineering education and research," stated Lipinski. "Especially with my experience as an engineer, I know that being at the forefront of these fields is a necessity if our economy is to remain strong."