

## (August 2, 2007) Lipinski Helps Move Major Education and Competitiveness Bill through U.S. House

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WASHINGTON - Today, House Science and Technology Committee Vice Chairman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) helped pass H.R. 2272, the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science (COMPETES) Act. This groundbreaking legislation will improve America's competitive and innovative edge in the world, and ensure that American children are prepared for the jobs of the future.

"America's economic success has long been spurred by our world leadership in innovation and technology, but this leadership is being challenged and we must respond," said Vice Chairman Lipinski. "This bill helps ensure America's bright future by investing more in education - especially in science, technology, engineering, and math - and by investing more in research and development."

The bill authorizes \$150 million for programs to create more qualified teachers in science and math fields and over \$40 billion to support scientific research and innovation through the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. In addition, H.R. 2272 establishes an Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E) to rapidly develop clean, revolutionary energy technologies to be pushed from the lab into the marketplace.

"With passage of this bill, we are stepping up our support of American students, teachers, researchers, scientists, and engineers, all of whom will ensure that we remain at the forefront of innovation and keep our nation secure and prosperous," stated Lipinski. "Especially important is the creation of ARPA-E which will help develop clean, domestic energy solutions which will increase our national security and protect our environment."

Yesterday, Lipinski was given a seat on the conference committee that worked quickly to resolve differences between the America Competes Act (S. 761), which passed the Senate in April, and the 21st Century Competitiveness Act of 2007 (H.R. 2272), which passed the House in May. The final conference agreement marked the end of a year and a half-long, bipartisan effort led by Members of the Science and Technology Committee to pass a package of competitiveness bills in response to recommendations in the 2005 National Academies report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*.

The Senate is expected to consider H.R. 2272 this week. [Click here](#) for Congressman Dan Lipinski's floor statement during debate of H.R. 2272.