COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVENESS STATEMENT

Congress and the President Must Act Now to Ensure the United States Leads in Science & Technology

As the Council on Competitiveness (Council) report *Competing in the Next Economy* makes clear, U.S. leadership in technology-based innovation and our long-term competitiveness are under threat.

As our nation’s ability to innovate becomes ever more fundamental to our competitiveness and economic success, the very foundations of the U.S. capacity and capability in science and technology are eroding. There are deficiencies in the U.S. innovation engine, and barriers in developing and scaling new technologies. And too few of our citizens are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to participate and thrive in an innovation-driven economy.

If the United States does not mount a strong, all-of-nation response to these opportunities and new competitive realities at home and challenges from overseas; if we fail to make needed investments in our people and the future, our nation’s fundamental capacity to grow its economy, create jobs, maintain national security, solve societal challenges, and provide a social safety net will continue to erode.

Over the past year, Congress and the Biden Administration have put forth several proposals and pieces of important legislation that would address many of these challenges: the Senate-passed U.S. Innovation and Competition Act; the America COMPETES Act; the CHIPS Act; the National Science Foundation for the Future Act; and the DoE Science for the Future Act. These would all be important steps in addressing the science, technology, and workforce needs of the country, yet that promise remains unfulfilled.

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**Council Members**

as of March 8, 2022

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Our global competitors are racing ahead while we debate. Recent data from the National Science Foundation’s *Science and Engineering Indicators* report paints a clear picture of competitors closing the gap with the United States across multiple metrics, from patents to research papers to support for basic research. For the United States, the time to act is overdue, and each day that passes is an opportunity lost in the form of jobs, new technologies, and scientific breakthroughs we will not get back.

We, the undersigned, urge immediate action by Congress to pass, and President Biden to sign, a negotiated final version of innovation and competitiveness legislation, including funding for the CHIPS Act, and concurrent sustained increases in annual appropriations for research and development across the federal government.

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