

STATEMENT OF  
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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Strengthening Undergraduate and Graduate STEM Education*

Thursday, February 4, 2010  
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

I am pleased that today we are focused on federal efforts to improve STEM programs in higher education. In the context of reauthorizing the America COMPETES Act, I look forward to hearing the insights of our witnesses into what we are doing well, but also the areas in need of improvement.

This week the fiscal year 2011 budget request was released by the administration. Disciplinary research funding at NSF appears to be prioritized over educational research and support for workforce development. While I am still obtaining the details, it is unsettling to me that university-based programs supporting the training of STEM teachers, such as the Math and Science Partnership and Noyce programs, received no requested funding increases while the Foundation would continue on a doubling track with an overall 8 percent increase.

I am sure the witnesses before us today have some thoughts on the linkages between the research and educational mission of the NSF. Their testimony will help us evaluate the budget request specific to STEM education at NSF at all levels, and ways we can strengthen the COMPETES Act through the reauthorization process.