

The America COMPETES Act of 2022 Will Help Ensure Workers and Businesses Can Make It In America

For more than a decade, Leader Hoyer and House Democrats have championed the [Make It In America plan](#), which aims to create good middle class jobs by upgrading infrastructure, expanding education and skills training, and promoting entrepreneurship. Since that plan was first unveiled, Leader Hoyer and House Democrats have passed [twenty pieces of legislation](#) achieving those three goals, including the bipartisan infrastructure law. The America COMPETES Act of 2022, which passed the House earlier this month, will revitalize America's research, innovation, and [manufacturing sectors](#) to make our economy more prosperous for all. It also includes [dozens of bills with strong bipartisan support](#), giving more workers and businesses the tools they need to Make It In America.

Majority Leader Hoyer in 2018: "Education; entrepreneurship; and infrastructure. In these three areas, Congress needs to step up and act. We need to promote pathways to career opportunities and make training and education more affordable and accessible...we need to unleash our economy and job creation by...building the innovative infrastructure of the future. If we can make Congress a partner again in helping businesses and workers get ahead, we can begin to renew Americans' faith in government as a force for good." [\[7/23/18\]](#)

The Make It In America plan aims to help Americans get ahead by setting targeted goals and policy recommendations in [Infrastructure, Education, and Entrepreneurship](#).

THE AMERICA COMPETES ACT **WILL MODERNIZE AMERICA'S RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE**

The America COMPETES Act will revitalize America's research infrastructure, making critical investments in innovation that will expand economic opportunities in science and technology. The bill includes provisions built on policy recommendations of the Make It In America plan:

Unleash our economy and job creation by repairing and rebuilding our aging infrastructure

- The America COMPETES Act authorizes the establishment of the Rebuilding Economies and Creating Opportunities for More People to Excel (RECOMPETE) pilot grant program at the Economic Development Administration to form and implement economic development strategies in distressed labor markets and communities to boost long-term economic growth and create lasting, quality jobs.

Build the innovative infrastructure of the future

- The America COMPETES Act includes a substantial investment in funding for the National Science Foundation, directing investments to critical research-enabling infrastructure, including the Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure program.

Build a reliable, efficient, and resilient electrical grid that includes clean-energy resources

- The America COMPETES Act directs funding to create a strategic transformer reserve, facilitate domestic manufacturing, and test critical electric grid equipment to reduce vulnerability and increase resiliency in the event of severe damage to the electrical grid.
- The America COMPETES Act includes funding to support research to advance the next generation of energy storage, solar, fusion energy, carbon capture, and bioenergy technologies, among many other areas, to promote clean energy technologies across America and help improve resiliency and modernization of our electrical grid.

BY PROMOTING PATHWAYS TO STEM CAREERS, THE AMERICA COMPETES ACT MEETS THE EDUCATION GOALS OF THE MAKE IT IN AMERICA PLAN

By extending pathways to career apprenticeships through provisions from the National Apprenticeship Act and expanding access to STEM coursework among other provisions, the America COMPETES Act builds a stronger, modern workforce and allows workers to build better lives for their families, fulfilling the education goals of the Make It In America agenda.

Promote pathways to career opportunities

- The legislation establishes a new grant program to improve our global competitiveness by increasing equitable access to computer-science education and computational-thinking skills for students enrolled in K-12 public schools.
- The America COMPETES Act also supports early-career scientists conducting research at the institutions of their choice, makes investments in clean energy technology research, and supports technology development at small businesses.
- The bill additionally authorizes \$250 million over five years for a new grant program operated by the Department of Education to increase students' access to postsecondary STEM "pathways" by exposing them to STEM coursework, reducing college costs, and improving postsecondary credit transfers – all Make It In America proposals.

Make training and education accessible and affordable

- The America COMPETES Act reauthorizes the National Apprenticeship Act and incentivizes new initiatives such as promoting diversity in apprenticeships and increasing women's participation; encourages building new partnerships among labor unions, educational institutions, and industry to launch new apprenticeship tracks from classrooms and training centers into full-time jobs, all policies championed by Leader Hoyer as part of the Make It In America plan.
- The America COMPETES Act authorizes a telecommunications-sector workforce-training grant program, Improving Minority Participation and Careers in Telecommunications Act (IMPACT), for minority-serving institutions to develop job-training programs in partnership with industry, Registered Apprenticeships, or labor organizations.
- The bill also accelerates efforts to increase diversity and inclusion in STEM by providing research on participation and trajectories of historically underrepresented groups, raising awareness within federal science agencies and higher-education institutions about barriers faced by these groups, and identifies and implements best practices to lower these barriers while creating grants for higher-education institutions to implement reforms to increase diversity.

Office of House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, 2/11/22

THE AMERICA COMPETES ACT'S COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION WILL HELP THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS BRING NEW IDEAS TO MARKET

By expanding and diversifying the federal commitment to scientific innovation, more of the next great discoveries will be developed and brought to market by entrepreneurs all over the United States. By promoting regional economic hubs, the America COMPETES Act will allow more communities to benefit and entrepreneurship to flourish in cities and towns across the country:

Promote regional industry clusters

- The bill would establish a regional technology and innovation hub program at the Department of Commerce, to incentivize collaborative partnerships among local governments, colleges and universities, private industry, non-profits, and community organizations to promote and support regional technology and innovation hubs.

Increase the availability of capital to smaller firms

- The America COMPETES Act would establish a Mentor-Protégé Program within the Department of Homeland Security that would create opportunities for small businesses to compete in the Federal marketplace.