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Slaughter Applauds Passage of Comprehensive Legislation Aimed to Keep America Competitive in the Global Economy

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today announced the passage of the first two bills that will help make our nation more competitive in the global economy. As the first bills in the Democratic Innovation Agenda, the measures will increase the number of highly qualified math and science teachers in K-12 (H.R. 362) and support young researchers to help foster innovation and discovery (H.R. 363).

“Scientific innovation and discovery have been the hallmark of American success for the past two centuries ,” said Rep. Slaughter. **“If we are to remain at the forefront of business, science, and education, we must give our children the tools they will need to compete in the global marketplace** .”

Rep. Slaughter was a co-sponsor of both bills which, in addition to spurring research and

education on a national level, will provide a real benefit to local students, researchers, and educational institutions.

“Western New York is already a leader in cutting-edge fields like biotech and alternative energy research,” continued Rep. Slaughter. **“These bills and the Innovation Agenda will help promote important research, train the next generation of scientists and engineers, and create good, living-wage jobs in our communities**.”

The Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act (HR 363) will promote the next generation of scientific research by providing grants to young scientists and engineers at academic institutions across the country.

The second bill, The “10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds” Science and Math Scholarship Act (HR 362), aims to add ten thousand new math and science teachers annually by increasing the number of scholarships for students majoring in science, technology, engineering and math fields and who are committed to pursuing teaching.

The Innovation Agenda represents the culmination of two years of work with academic and business leaders to ensure that America remains at the forefront of business, education, research, and innovation during the 21st century. In addition to the steps taken this week, the Innovation Agenda will move forward to create a new generation of innovators, invest in federal

research and development, spur affordable access to broadband, achieve energy independence, and provide small business with tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation.

BACKGROUND

HR 362 - 10,000 Teachers - Science and Math Scholarship Act

The measure takes critical steps to place highly qualified teachers in math, science, and technology K-12 classrooms, based on the recommendations of the National Academies.

- § It will invest in 10,000 new science and math teachers, totaling some 25,000 over five years, by increasing the number of scholarships for students majoring in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields and who are committed to pursuing teaching.

- § It will also strengthen the skills of math, science and technology of up to 250,000 teachers by improving education and training opportunities for math and science teachers and expanding professional development, summer training institutes, and graduate education assistance.

- § According to the National Academies, the #1 thing we can do for our future economic health is invest in our science and math teachers. A number of highly publicized studies have shown that the mathematics and science achievement of American students is poor by international standards. In 2005, 39 percent of 12th graders lacked even basic high school math skills. [National Assessment of Educational Progress]

- § This measure has been endorsed by a broad range of businesses and universities as well as industry and education groups, including the Business Roundtable, Association of American Universities, Council on Competitiveness, the College Board, Semiconductor Industry Association and the Business Software Alliance.

HR 363 - Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act

This measure would increase support for long-term scientific research and encourage young scientists and researchers to pursue high-risk/high-reward research.

- § It provides grants for outstanding researchers in the early stages of their careers from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

- § It also establishes a Presidential Innovation Award to stimulate scientific and engineering advances, and a national coordination office to identify and prioritize research infrastructure needs at universities and national laboratories.

- § Researchers at early stages in their careers are more likely to shift paradigms, break with tradition, or bring new ideas in high-risk/high-reward research that is likely to be transformative or highly innovative.

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