FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2010

Compete America Thanks Senators for Continued Pursuit of Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Coalition Statement on “Conceptual Proposal for Immigration Reform”

Washington, D.C. – Compete America, a coalition dedicated to ensuring that the United States has the highly educated and innovative workforce necessary to grow the economy and create American jobs – and a strong supporter of Comprehensive Immigration Reform – today issued the following statement in response to the “Conceptual Proposal for Immigration Reform” as released by Senators Harry Reid (D-NV), Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ).

Compete America and its members are strong advocates of comprehensive immigration reform, and are pleased that a conceptual proposal for legislation is now on the table.

We thank Senators Reid, Schumer and Menendez, and applaud them for their support for making green cards immediately available to foreign students who graduate from a U.S. university with an advanced degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. This provision will end the counterproductive practice of educating and training some of the world’s brightest and most innovative minds, and then sending them elsewhere to compete against us.

Our members endorse aggressive enforcement of current laws to combat fraud or misuse of H-1B and L-1 visas. We have strong concerns, however, regarding proposals that will make it more difficult for employers to use these temporary visas. The provisions outlined in this proposal are far-reaching and would have a number of unintended practical consequences that would jeopardize the competitiveness of U.S. employers. We look forward to working with the Senators on ensuring that the proposals are further developed in a balanced manner to ensure strong enforcement and employer protections.

Compete America will continue to advocate for ways to improve the current immigration reform framework, and we remain fully committed to the process. Fixing a broken immigration system is essential to U.S. economic and security interests, and we urge the Senate to move forward on this vital issue in an effective, bipartisan manner.

Compete America (www.competeamerica.org) is a coalition of corporations, educators, research institutions and trade associations concerned about legal, employment-based immigration and committed to ensuring that the United States has the highly educated workforce necessary to ensure continued innovation, job creation and leadership in a worldwide economy.