



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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AAU ENDORSES ALEXANDER-COONS BILL TO REAUTHORIZE ENERGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH PROGRAMS UNDER COMPETES ACT

Following is a statement by the Association of American Universities on the introduction of S. 1398 last week by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Chris Coons (D-DE). The legislation would reauthorize research programs in the Department of Energy covered by the America COMPETES Act.

On behalf of our 60 member U.S. research universities, AAU applauds the introduction of legislation (S. 1398) by Senators Lamar Alexander, Chris Coons, and several colleagues to reauthorize and strengthen critical Department of Energy (DOE) research programs at the Office of Science and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E).

This bill is effectively a partial reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act, the two earlier versions of which, in 2007 and 2010, projected a strong vision for vital elements of the nation's scientific research enterprise. The Alexander-Coons bill extends and reinforces that vision for energy research for half a decade. By authorizing significant, sustained funding increases for important DOE basic science and high-risk, high reward research programs, it would boost opportunities for developing new forms of clean energy, conserving existing resources, and reducing even further the nation's reliance on fossil fuels and on foreign sources of energy.

Unfortunately, the House of Representatives has not taken a similar approach to COMPETES, passing a bill that freezes spending and significantly cuts the nation's investment in key areas of research, including Biological and Environmental Research and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, as well as ARPA-E. As we seek to prevent America from creating an innovation deficit that threatens our global leadership in science and innovation, the House bill would take us in exactly the wrong direction.

AAU strongly supports S. 1398 and urges its enactment.

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The [Association of American Universities \(AAU\)](#) is an association of [60 U.S. and two Canadian public and private research universities](#). It focuses on issues such as funding for research, research policy issues, and graduate and undergraduate education. AAU member universities are on the leading edge of innovation, scholarship, and solutions that contribute to the nation's economy, security, and wellbeing. AAU's 60 U.S. universities award nearly one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in STEM fields.

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