

4 November 2021

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Johnson,

On behalf of the IEEE-USA (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – USA), I would like to express our full support for the Keep STEM Talent Act of 2021. This bill is a simple and direct way to enhance America’s global competitiveness and fully capitalize on one of our nation’s greatest economic assets – our STEM universities.

The United States continues to attract a disproportionate number of the world’s top students – by a wide margin. Those students come to the US to take advantage of our universities, many of which are also the best in the world by a wide margin. After they graduate, the students go on to become the scientists, engineers, doctors, and mathematicians that drive innovation, job creation and economic growth. These individuals will create new products, companies and in a few cases entire industries through their hard work and creativity. The only question is, where will they do their creating?

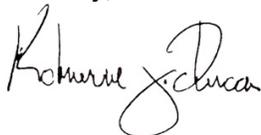
Even in our global economy, physical location matters. The communities where innovation occurs – and where innovative people live – disproportionately benefit from that innovation.

The Keep STEM Talent Act would ensure that the United States continues to have access to the top STEM graduates of our universities. The bill includes reasonable restrictions to protect American workers and students. Only advanced degree holders from accredited universities would qualify, and only then if they had a legitimate job offer in their field. All jobs would be subject to labor certification before being made available to international students, thereby protecting American jobs.

As representatives of 180,000 technology professionals – more than any other group in the country – we are not worried about competing with international graduate students, as long as those graduates put their skills to work here as Americans. IEEE-USA members know that adding talented, educated professionals to our economy helps all Americans.

Therefore, we unequivocally support the Keep STEM Talent Act of 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Duncan".

Katherine Duncan
2021 IEEE-USA President

CC: Rep. Bill Foster