

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Rounds
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

July 25, 2023

Dear Sen. Durbin and Sen. Rounds:

On behalf of the IEEE-USA (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – USA) and our 150,000 individual members across the United States, I would like to express our full and enthusiastic support for the Keep STEM Talent Act of 2023 (S. 2384). 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.

America continues to attract a disproportionate number of the world’s top students – by a wide margin. Those students receive a world-class education subsidized by American taxpayers. After they graduate, the students go on to become the scientists, engineers, doctors, and mathematicians that create new products, companies, and, occasionally, entire new 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 will be where innovative people live. The Keep STEM Talent Act will ensure that the United States continues to have access to the top STEM graduates of our universities while including 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. And all jobs would be subject to labor certification before international students could take them, protecting American jobs.

IEEE-USA members know that adding talented, educated professionals to our economy helps all Americans. We therefore unequivocally support the Keep STEM Talent Act and applaud your leadership in introducing this important bill.

Sincerely,



Ed Palacio
2023 IEEE-USA President