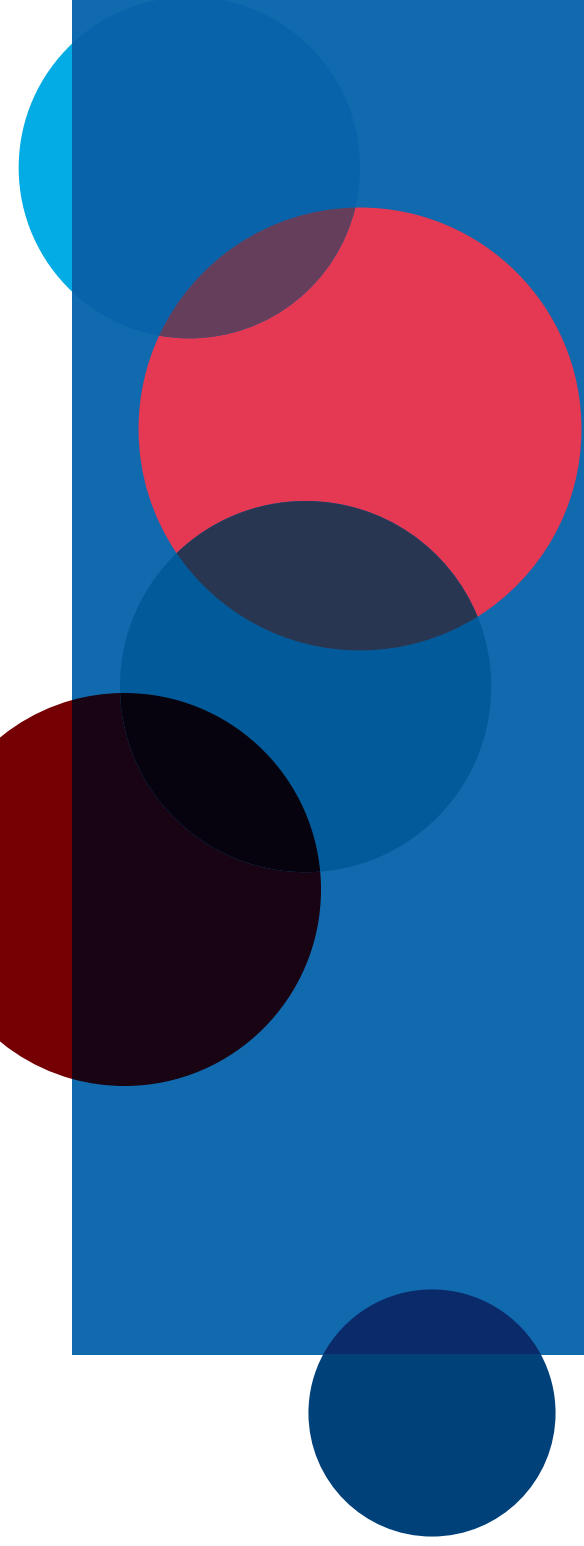





*A Commitment to Competitiveness  
To Keep America #1*



**THE TALENT, INTELLECT, AND  
ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE MADE  
THIS NATION THE LEADER IN  
ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL  
ADVANCEMENTS. HOUSE  
DEMOCRATS BELIEVE AMERICAN  
LEADERSHIP IS FUELED BY NATIONAL  
INVESTMENTS IN AN EDUCATED  
AND SKILLED WORKFORCE,  
GROUNDBREAKING FEDERAL  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, AND  
A STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO  
BEING THE MOST COMPETITIVE AND  
INNOVATIVE NATION IN THE WORLD.**



**AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT  
AND INNOVATION IS BEING  
SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED BY OTHER  
COUNTRIES. THE WARNING SIGNS  
COULD NOT BE CLEARER. THE REST  
OF THE WORLD IS INCREASING ITS  
CAPACITY, ITS INVESTMENTS, AND  
ITS WILL TO CATCH UP WITH US. WE  
CANNOT IGNORE THIS CHALLENGE.**

**AMERICANS MUST INNOVATE IN  
ORDER TO CREATE NEW THRIVING  
INDUSTRIES THAT WILL PRODUCE  
MILLIONS OF GOOD JOBS HERE AT  
HOME AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR  
OUR CHILDREN.**



**TOGETHER,**  
**AMERICA**  
**CAN DO**  
**BETTER**

# INNOVATION AGENDA

## A COMMITMENT TO COMPETITIVENESS TO KEEP AMERICA #1

We must make the decision now to ensure that America remains the world leader. Working with leaders from the high-technology, venture capital, academic, biotech and telecommunications sectors, we have identified and are committed to priorities that will guarantee our national security and prosperity, expand markets for American products, and assert economic leadership throughout the world. Together, America can do better.

House Democrats are proud to present a bold INNOVATION AGENDA: A COMMITMENT TO COMPETITIVENESS TO KEEP AMERICA #1 to:

Create an educated, skilled workforce in the vital areas of science, math, engineering, and information technology;

Invest in a sustained federal research and development initiative that promotes public-private partnerships;

Guarantee affordable access to broadband technology for all Americans;

Achieve energy independence in 10 years by developing emerging technologies for clean and sustainable alternatives that will strengthen national security and protect the environment; and,

Provide small businesses with the tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation and job creation.

The future prosperity and competitiveness of America demand that we initiate this sustained financial and intellectual investment in innovation. We must also ensure that our children and grandchildren are not burdened by failed policies that have exploded the national debt. That is why House Democrats will submit these priorities to the rigors of “pay-as-you-go” budgeting to ensure that new spending or tax cuts do not add to the deficit.

House Democrats believe the American people have always excelled at leading the world. With this bold agenda, our nation will continue to be the world leader in education, innovation, and economic growth.

## A NEW GENERATION OF INNOVATORS

America's greatest resource for innovation resides within classrooms across the country. We must give our students more opportunities to be highly-trained in math, science, and technology so they can turn ideas into innovations. Future innovators must reflect the diversity of our country, and we must provide opportunities for every qualified student, including minorities and women. Democrats will create a new generation of scientists, engineers, and mathematicians and will ensure that today's students get the job skills they need at all levels of learning.

To achieve this goal, Democrats will:

Educate 100,000 new scientists, engineers, and mathematicians in the next four years by proposing a new initiative, working with states, businesses, and universities, to provide scholarships to qualified students who commit to working in the fields of innovation.

Place a highly qualified teacher in every math and science K-12 classroom by offering upfront tuition assistance to talented undergraduates and by paying competitive salaries to established teachers working in the fields of math and science; institute a "call to action" to professional engineers and scientists, including those who have retired, to join the ranks of our nation's teachers.

Create a special visa for the best and brightest international doctoral and post-doctoral scholars in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Make college tuition tax-deductible for students studying math, science, technology, and engineering.

# CREATE A NEW GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, AND MATHEMATICIANS

# A SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Independent scientific research provides the foundation for innovation and future technologies. But U.S. federal funding for research and development has declined steadily over the last decade, and sound science has been compromised by political interference. We can do better. Over the next five years, Democrats will double the federal commitment to research aimed at developing the next generation of sound scientific breakthroughs, and we will promote the public-private partnerships necessary to translate these new ideas into marketable technologies.

To achieve this goal, Democrats will:

Double overall funding for the National Science Foundation, basic research in the physical sciences across all agencies, and collaborative research partnerships; restore the basic, long-term research agenda at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to conduct long-range, high-risk, and high-reward research.

Create regional Centers of Excellence for basic research that will attract the best minds and top researchers to develop far-reaching technological innovations and new industries, and modernize existing federal and academic research facilities.

Modernize and permanently extend a globally competitive R&D tax credit to increase domestic investment, create more U.S. jobs, and allow companies to pursue long-term projects with the certainty that the credit will not expire.

## PROMOTE PUBLIC- PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

# AFFORDABLE BROADBAND ACCESS FOR EVERY AMERICAN WITHIN FIVE YEARS

Nationwide deployment of high speed, always-on broadband Internet and mobile communications will fuel the development of millions of new jobs in the United States. Just as railroads and highways did in the past, broadband and mobile communications will dramatically increase the productivity and efficiency of our economy in the future. In education, broadband will provide greater access to information, expanded curriculum, and real-time collaboration across borders and boundaries. In health care, broadband will enable advanced electronic health technology to improve patient care and vastly reduce costs. In communications, broadband will make the convergence of information, media, and telecommunications a reality, and services such as Voice over IP and video on demand will be pervasive. Democrats will ensure that the United States has the world's most advanced telecommunications infrastructure to bridge the digital divide so that every American has access to affordable broadband Internet service and communications technology.

To achieve this goal, Democrats will:

Implement a national broadband policy that doubles federal funding to promote broadband for all Americans, especially in rural and underserved communities; create new avenues of Internet access including wireless broadband technologies, broadband over power lines, and affordable community-based options.

Ensure the continued growth of Internet-based services and provide a stable regulatory framework to attract investment by existing providers and new entrants.

Enact a broadband tax credit for telecommunications companies that deploy broadband in rural and underserved parts of America to ensure that every region of the country benefits from our innovation investments.

## BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



# ENERGY INDEPENDENCE IN 10 YEARS

America will achieve energy independence from Middle East oil in the next 10 years by developing emerging technologies that work in synergy with the existing energy infrastructure. A sustained investment in research and development is crucial to creating cutting-edge technologies that allow us to develop clean, sustainable energy alternatives and capitalize on America's vast renewable natural resources.

To achieve this goal, Democrats will:

Substantially reduce the use of petroleum based fuels by rapidly expanding production and distribution of synthetic and bio-based fuels, such as ethanol derived from cellulosic sources, and by deploying new engine technologies for fuel-flexible, hybrid, plug-in hybrid and biodiesel vehicles.

Create a new DARPA-like initiative within the Department of Energy to provide seed money for fundamental research needed to develop high-risk, high-reward technologies and build markets for the next generation of revolutionary energy technologies, such as those emerging from biotechnology, nanotechnology, solar, and fuel-cell research.

## CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

# A COMPETITIVE SMALL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT FOR INNOVATION

Small businesses are the catalysts for technological innovation. The evolution from idea to marketable product, guided by a successful small business plan, has led to entrepreneurial successes that have fueled our technological revolution and will be the key to continued job growth in the future. Yet small businesses face significant hurdles, both regulatory and market-based, that thwart the effort to transform ideas into jobs. Removing these hurdles is a key component of this Innovation Agenda.

To achieve this goal, Democrats will:

Bridge the “valley of death” that destroys innovative ideas before they become marketable products due to lack of financing and technical support by doubling funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and the Advanced Technology Program (ATP), modernizing the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR), and fully funding SBA 7(a) loans to ensure that American small businesses have the resources and technical assistance they need to successfully innovate.

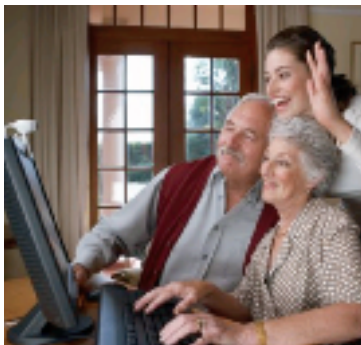
Reward risk-taking and entrepreneurship by promoting broad-based stock options for rank-and-file employees.

Protect the intellectual property of American innovators worldwide, strengthen the patent system, and end the diversion of patent fees.

Require specifically-tailored guidelines for small public companies to ensure Sarbanes-Oxley requirements are not overly burdensome.

Provide universal, affordable access to health insurance, beginning with a 50 percent tax credit and multi-insurer pools to help small businesses provide affordable and comprehensive health care coverage for their employees.

## REWARD RISK-TAKING



**DEMOCRATS PRESENT  
THIS CHALLENGE TO THE  
CONGRESS - LET US ACT  
TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT  
THIS INNOVATION AGENDA:  
A COMMITMENT TO  
COMPETITIVENESS TO  
KEEP AMERICA #1.**

**AMERICA WILL BE STRONGER:  
WE WILL ASSERT OUR GLOBAL  
ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP,  
CREATE NEW BUSINESS  
VENTURES AND JOBS, AND  
GIVE ALL AMERICANS THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE  
THE AMERICAN DREAM.**

**HOUSE DEMOCRATS**

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