APPROPRIATIONS: SENATE AND HOUSE UNVEIL DIFFERING SUPPLEMENTALS TO DEAL WITH BORDER CRISIS

The House GOP and the Senate Appropriations Committee unveiled separate proposals this week to deal with the crisis at the border where unprecedented numbers of unaccompanied minors and adults with small children are overwhelming immigration officials, primarily in Texas.

On July 23, 2014, Senate Appropriations Chair Barbara Mikulski released her supplemental funding proposal. Rep. Kay Granger (TX), chair of a House Republican Task Force set up to deal with immigration issues, also released her groups recommendations on Wednesday.

Senate Proposal
The Senate plan cuts President Obama’s request for $3.7 billion by about $1 billion, choosing to focus on the funding that can actually be spent in FY14, and address future funding needs later. Highlights of the funding include:
- Provides more than $1.1 billion for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Included in that funding is $116 million for Immigration and Custom Enforcement for transportation costs associated with transfer of unaccompanied children to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).
- Provides $586 million for the detention, prosecution and removal of undocumented families.
- Provides $291 million to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for operational costs associated with responding to the surge of apprehensions.
- Provides a total of $112 million for ICE and CBP enforcement and disruption activities to break up smuggling and trafficking rings, expand Border Enforcement Security Task Forces and vetted units and expand air surveillance to ensure border security in the Rio Grande Valley and other areas along the Southwest border.
- Provides $1 million for the DHS Office of Inspector General to conduct site visits of detention facilities as well as screen and investigate complaints about treatment of unaccompanied children and families apprehended at the Southwest border.
The Senate proposal also includes $615 million in emergency firefighting funds requested for the Department of Agriculture’s U.S. Forest Service, and $225 million in Department of Defense emergency supplemental funding for Israel to procure additional Iron Dome interceptors.

House Recommendations

The House GOP Plan does not include a proposed dollar figure, as responsibility for that falls to the House Appropriations Committee. Highlights of the group’s recommendations include:

- Amend the Trafficking Victims Protection and Reauthorization Act of 2008 so all unaccompanied minors are treated the same as Mexicans for the purpose of removals. This would require unaccompanied children who do not wish to be voluntarily returned to their home country to remain in HHS custody while they await an expedited immigration court hearing that must occur not more than 7 days after they are screened by child welfare officials.

- Deploy the National Guard to the Southern border to assist Border Patrol in the humanitarian care and needs of the unaccompanied minors.

- Establish border security in Central American countries and Mexico.

- Establish repatriation centers in originating countries in order to facilitate the return of family units and unaccompanied minors.

- Deploy aggressive messaging campaigns in originating countries and the U.S. to dispel immigration myths, clarify that individuals will be deported on arrival and advise on the dangers and legal penalties of traveling through Mexico to enter the United States illegally.

- Mandate the detention of all Family Units apprehended at the border with the ultimate goal of processing family units in 5-7 days.

- Deploy additional judge teams and temporary judges to expedite the hearing of asylum and credible fear claims.

- Establish tough penalties for those engaged in human smuggling, including the smuggling of unaccompanied minors by strengthening penalties for human smugglers and those who assist them.
- Increase law enforcement operations domestically and in originating countries to disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal organizations and encourage originating countries to pass strict laws against human smuggling.

Rep. Hal Rogers, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, has said that the most that can be “feasibly and sensibly spent before the end of the calendar year” on the crisis is $1.5 billion, but he has not yet released a bill laying out the final figure and how it would be allocated. Whether the House and/or Senate will deal with the supplemental before the beginning of the August recess next week, is also still up in the air.

For more information on the Senate plan, go to:

For more information on the House GOP task force plan, go to:

EDUCATION: HOUSE TAKES UP BILLS DEALING WITH HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES

The House this week considered three bills dealing with separate issues under the Higher Education Act reauthorization. Rather than consider one comprehensive reauthorization, the leadership has decided to move several smaller bills. The HEA has not been reauthorized since 2008.

On Wednesday, July 23, 2014, H.R. 3136, the Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act, was approved overwhelming by a vote of 414-0. Under current law, regulators and institutions have traditionally used “credit hours” to measure student progress and disburse student aid. This model made sense when “seat time” was the best proxy for learning, but today institutions are developing new models of education that can measure students’ actual learning rather than just the time spent in class. This can offer students new educational opportunities tailored to their specific personal and financial needs. The bill directs the Secretary of Education to implement up to 30 competency-based education demonstration projects. The Secretary is authorized to waive current statutory and regulatory requirements that impede the creation of competency-based education programs.

The bill also requires an annual evaluation of each demonstration project to determine program quality, the progress of participating students towards earning a degree, obstacles related to student financial assistance, and the extent to which other legal barriers may exist that prevent the success of competency-based education. It would also give institutions greater flexibility to provide students a more personalized, cost-effective education.

Also on Wednesday, the House passed by voice vote under suspension of the rules, HR 4983, Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act. The bill aims to simplify and streamline the information regarding higher education institutions that the Department of Education makes public.

On July 24th, the House took up H.R. 4984. That bill will amend the loan counseling requirements in order to improve the information, and knowledge, available to students when considering the implications of student loan debt. During consideration of the bill, Rep. Loretta Sanchez (Anaheim) successfully offered an amendment to include in the counseling requirements an explanation that if a student decides to transfer to another institution, not all of the student’s credits may be acceptable towards meeting specific degree or program requirements at such institution, therefore, eligibility for Federal Pell Grants will not reset due to the maximum number of semesters or equivalent. It was accepted by voice vote. Rep. Janice Hahn’s (San Pedro) amendment was also adopted by voice vote. It would provide student loan borrowers with the national average cohort default rate in addition
to the institution's cohort default rate and the categorical national cohort default rate. The House passed the bill 405-11.

For more information, go to: http://edworkforce.house.gov/ and https://beta.congress.gov/legislation

EDUCATION: SENATE HELP COMMITTEE HOLDS HIGHER ED HEARING

On Thursday, July 24, 2014, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a hearing to examine the role of states in higher education. Witnesses offered testimony outlining state efforts to improve higher education attainment, especially for students from historically underrepresented groups, while containing costs as much as possible. As the Committee considers the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, aligning federal policies to support innovative state and local efforts to cut costs and improve student outcomes is a high priority.

Witnesses included: Dr. Eric Kaler, President, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; Teresa Lubbers, Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN; The Honorable Lisa Madigan, Attorney General, State of Illinois, Chicago, IL; and Dr. Laura Perna, Professor and Chair of the Higher Education Division, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Perna recommended that the Higher Education Act be amended to include "federal-state partnerships" for raising overall higher education attainment and reducing gaps in attainment across groups. "Such partnerships would build on prior successful partnerships such as those stimulated by the federal Morrill Land Grant Acts and the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) Program (formerly known as the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) program). Explicit federal-state partnerships would recognize that a comprehensive approach with specified roles of multiple actors is required if we are to successfully raise overall rates of higher education attainment and close gaps in attainment across groups," she explained, before going on to describe three specific types of federal-state partnerships.

The first type of federal-state partnership would focus on improving college affordability by addressing one force that is driving up tuition and fees at public colleges and universities: the decline in state appropriations per student. Either maintenance of efforts provisions or federal matching funds could be used to incentivize state investment. A second type would encourage the development of more effective and innovative approaches to addressing the complex, systemic issues that limit college opportunity, especially for students from low-income families, racial/ethnic minority groups, and other groups that are underrepresented in higher education. In a third type of federal-state partnership, the federal government would incentivize states to promote college-related knowledge among prospective college applicants. "The challenges to closing gaps in attainment across groups are many. But continued gaps in higher education attainment leave the U.S. and individual states at a competitive disadvantage, diminish the middle class, and contribute to growing economic and social inequality. The time for greater action is now," Dr. Perna concluded.

Another role of the state is protecting its residents from predatory business practices. As the Attorney General of Illinois, Lisa Madigan said that her role is to protect the consumers of her state—pointing out that "students" are essentially acting as consumers when they seek higher education and deserve consumer protections. "In recent years, my office has received higher education complaints from students with increasing regularity. Overwhelmingly, these complaints are against three types of companies involved in higher education: for-profit schools; student loan servicers; and, more recently, companies purporting to offer student debt relief services," she said. While state attorney generals certainly have a role to play in this regard, Madigan argued, Congress should do more to protect students from fraudulent practices on a federal level. Most importantly, higher education students need
to be better protected under federal law, including passing stronger consumer protections that apply to higher education private companies, as well as better controls over Title IV funds going to for-profit institutions to ensure they are only used to help students achieve high quality, affordable higher educations. "These funds are too important to be misused," she concluded.

For more information on the hearing, please visit: http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=b20d709a-5056-a032-5257-2fab93719a1f

TOURISM/COMMERCE: SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS TWO BILLS; HOUSE PASSES TRAVEL BILL

On Wednesday, July 23, 2014, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee convened to markup travel and commerce legislation. The Committee reported by voice vote both S. 2094, the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, and S. 2250, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act.

S. 2094 would establish national standards for regulating vessel discharge, by authorizing the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency to implement uniform regulations limiting the discharge of pollutants, with certain exceptions for oil, garbage or sewage. Currently, vessel discharges are regulated by a patchwork of inconsistent statutes where federal laws do not pre-empt state regulations. Three amendments were adopted: two would change the standard for limiting the discharge of living organisms that have not been rendered harmless, so-called invasive species, the third would extend the timeline from 60 days to one year for implementation of a provision that would prevent manufacturers of pollutant treatments from selling technology that has not been certified under testing protocols to be developed by the Coast Guard and EPA. According to Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), Chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, California and several other states oppose S. 2094 because it would exempt large ships from some current regulations that prevent the discharge of invasive species into U.S. waters.

S. 2250, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act, also approved by voice vote, would extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009. The bill established the public-private partnership Corporation for Travel Promotion (Brand USA) to encourage increased international visitation to the United States and to grow America's share of the global travel market. The goal is to continue bringing millions of new international visitors who spend billions of dollars to the United States, creating tens of thousands of new American jobs. Through an amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act, S. 2250 reauthorizes 100 percent matched public funding of the Travel Promotion Fund through FY 2020. The bill includes additional accountability measures, such as requirements for Brand USA to establish a competitive procurement process and a set of performance metrics to measure the impact of BrandUSA's marketing efforts. The House version of the bill, H.R. 4450, was approved this week by a vote of 347-57. An article in the Bulletin last week on the House bill incorrectly stated the number of California members who have co-sponsored H.R. 4450. The correct number is 22.

Visit California is a nonprofit organization with a mission to develop and maintain marketing programs - in partnership with the state’s travel industry - that keep California "top-of-mind" as a premier travel destination. According to Visit California, travel and tourism expenditures generated $109.6 billion in revenue for California businesses in 2013, a 3.2 percent increase from the prior year. The money spent by travelers directly supported jobs for 965,800 Californians and generated $7.1 billion in state and local tax revenues. Tourism is California’s fourth-largest employer and fifth-largest contributor to the gross state product. Visit California provides integrated marketing resources with
Brand USA on its website:
http://industry.visitcalifornia.com/Travel-Industry/Hidden/Brand-USA-Resources/

For more information about the travel and commerce legislation, please visit:
http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=6dfbe359-8a3f-43f8-b639-50fe16ba201f&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id=81506421-e467-4ad2-906c-c415ff3467f4

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE: HOUSE PASSES SEVERAL TRAFFICKING PREVENTION BILLS**

On July 23, 2014, the House passed several bills aimed at preventing sex trafficking, particularly of children. All of the bills were passed by voice vote under suspension of the rules, requiring a two-thirds majority vote.

HR 5116 - Human Trafficking Detection Act - directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities.

HR 2283 - Human Trafficking Prioritization Act - prioritizes the fight against human trafficking within the Department of State according to congressional intent in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 without increasing the size of the federal government.

HR 4449 - Human Trafficking Prevention Act - amends the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to expand the training for Federal Government personnel related to trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

HR 4980 addresses sex trafficking of children in foster care, extends and improves adoption incentives, and improves international child support recovery.

HR 5076 - Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking Act - amends the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to increase knowledge concerning, and improve services for, runaway and homeless youth who are victims of trafficking.

On Thursday, the House passed H.R. 5111, which amends the Missing Children's Assistance Act to include among the required uses of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's annual grant to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children operation of a cyber tipline to provide online users and electronic service providers an effective means of reporting Internet-related child sexual exploitation in the area of child sex trafficking (currently, child prostitution). The vote on passage was 409-0.

For more information, go to: https://beta.congress.gov/legislation

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT: HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON SBIR AND STTR**

In the second of two hearings, the House Small Business Committee convened on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 to receive testimony in their oversight of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs. SBIR and STTR were originally established to fund research and development within small businesses, helping to find innovative solutions for the needs of federal agencies and stimulating broad economic growth. While an earlier hearing focused on private sector impressions of the programs, this hearing focused on the roles of the Small Business Administration, National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Defense in implementing programmatic changes to SBIR/STTR contained in the FY 2012 defense (NDAA) reauthorization. These changes were primarily designed to increase the commercialization of
SBIR-funded research, increase participation by a wider array of small businesses, and increase the end use of the technology developed through the SBIR program by federal agencies.

Witnesses included: Javier Saade, Associate Administrator, Office of Investment and Innovation, Small Business Administration; Marie Mak, Acting Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management Team, Government Accountability Office; Andre Gudger, Director, Office of Small Business Programs, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense, Department of Defense; and Matthew Portnoy, Director, Division of Special Programs, and Program Manager, National Institutes of Health.

“A San Francisco-based startup called LiftLabs created an ‘anti-tremor’ spoon that cancels up to 70% of the hand tremors [caused by Parkinson’s disease], which allows an individual to eat a bowl of cereal. This startup can thank NIH’s SBIR program for the initial seed financing of $800,000 to get their product, LiftWare, developed and deployed into the market. The company, subsequently, raised $1,000,000 in private capital and received the backing of RockHealth, a health-care focused accelerator based in San Francisco’s Mission Bay neighborhood – the type of accelerator whose model we are looking to export to the rest of the country through SBA’s Growth Accelerator program,” explained SBA Administrator Saade, in just one example of the positive outcomes of SBIR-funded research.

Over the history of SBIR/STTR, eleven agencies have awarded over 145,000 grants totaling about $38 billion dollars to America’s small businesses. In 2012, the SBIR and STTR programs provided over $2.5 billion dollars directly into the hands of small businesses nationwide. Nearly a quarter of that money was awarded to women-owned, minority-owned, or HUBZone located small businesses, he testified. He also said that SBA will be launching a new commercialization database, that will allow the private sector to easily search SBIR and STTR funded research and increase the opportunities to invest in small businesses.

In an effort to measure the role of SBIR/STTR programs in leading to commercialized or transferable technologies, the reauthorization bill increased reporting requirements for federal agencies. For example, the Department of Defense is required to report the number and percentage of SBIR projects that transition into acquisition programs or to fielded systems, among other things. At the end of 2013, DOD was still assessing how to comply with the new transition reporting requirements, as it had yet to modify its existing data systems or develop new tools to compile more complete and accurate technology transition data. The Government Accountability Office published a report recommending that the DOD outline a specific plan for gathering better information on technology transition outcomes to support evaluations of whether the DOD SBIR program is providing the right technologies at the right time to users, using effective approaches to select, develop, and transition technologies, and providing tangible benefits. “In an environment of declining budgets, it is important that information on technology transition outcomes for SBIR projects be improved for DOD to identify the extent to which the program is supporting military users and determine whether existing monitoring and transition efforts are working effectively. We recognize that the goal is not to transition all technologies funded through SBIR, because not all technologies will be demonstrated successfully. Nonetheless, it is important to ensure that the right technologies are transitioning and to not allow these technologies to fail for the wrong reasons,” concluded GAO Director Marie Mak.

For more information, please visit:

**ENERGY: HOUSE ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE EXPLORES STATE ENERGY POLICIES**

The Energy and Power Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee convened on Thursday, July 24, 2014 for a hearing titled "Laboratories of Democracy: The Economic Impacts of State Energy Policies." Witnesses were asked to testify about: (1) energy policy differences among the
states, (2) the economic impact of particular energy policies, (3) federal intervention in state energy policy decisions, (4) energy policies that have the greatest economic benefits, and (5) the impact energy policies have on different demographic groups of a state.

Witnesses included: Paul Polzin, Director Emeritus, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana; Tom Tanton, Director, Science and Technology Assessment, Energy and Environment Legal Institute; Fred Siegel, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute; Bernard Weinstein, Associate Director, Maguire Energy Institute, Cox School of Business, Southern Methodist University; Steve Clemmer, Director of Energy Research and Analysis, Union of Concerned Scientists; and Steve Nadel, Executive Director, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

Tom Tanton of the Energy and Environment Legal Institute discussed California energy policies extensively throughout his testimony, including his opinion that California's SB 4, a bill to introduce hydrofracking regulations, represents an economically sound energy policy, while the law in place, AB 32, or the "Global Warming Solutions Act" imposes burdensome costs that outweigh the benefits. Included in his testimony is his white paper that estimates the economic impact of a cap and trade auction tax on California, including the prediction of an annual effective cost increase to the typical family of four to be $818 the first year growing to $2800 in 2020, annual job losses to the California Economy of 76,000 to 107,000 the first year, and lost economic activity of nearly 2% of gross state product. He also outlined his opposition to California's numerous programs that encourage or force alternative transportation fuels into the market. "In each case," he argued, "they have failed due to lack of consumer acceptance of the 'alternative' subsidized or mandated by the government." Bernard Weinstein of the Maguire Energy Institute also opposed current California energy policies.

On behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists, Steve Clemmer argued that state renewable electricity standards (RES) have been a key driver of renewable energy development, representing more than two-thirds of all non-hydro renewable energy capacity installed in the U.S. between 1998 and 2012. According to Clemmer, California's 33 percent by 2020 standard creates the nation's largest market for renewable energy and increased domestic manufacturing of turbine components. "U.S. solar capacity has increased by a factor of ten since 2009 (SEIA 2014)….making solar the second largest source of new capacity behind natural gas. This development has provided important economic benefits. The solar industry injected $13.7 billion into the U.S. economy in 2013, and nearly $34 billion over the past three years (SEIA 2014). More than 142,000 people work in the U.S. solar industry -- a 20 percent increase over 2012 levels -- at 6,100 businesses located in every state… California leads the nation with over one-third of these jobs," Clemmer said. He argued in favor of federal tax credits and R&D funding as an important complement to state RES policies in promoting renewable energy development, driving technology innovation, and lowering costs.

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) prepares an annual State Energy Efficiency Scorecard that evaluates energy efficiency programs, policies, and accomplishments in each state; their 2013 scorecard ranked California high overall. "All 50 states can reap the economic-development and other benefits of energy efficiency achieved in California and the Northeast," said Steve Nadel of ACEEE. He cited a 2008 study by UC Berkeley economist David Roland-Host. The report, Energy Efficiency, Innovation, and Job Creation in California (Berkeley: Center for Energy, Resources, and Economic Sustainability, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 2008) found that "energy efficiency measures have enabled California households to redirect their expenditures towards other goods and services, creating about 1.5 million full-time-equivalent jobs with a total payroll of $45 billion, driven by well-documented household energy savings of $56 billion from 1972-2006." The study also found that
"as a result of energy efficiency, California reduced its energy import dependence and directed a greater percentage of its consumption to in-state employment intensive goods and services, whose supply chains also largely reside with the state, creating a ‘multiplier’ effect of job generation." Nadel recommended that the federal government aid and encourage states to develop energy-efficient policies through such actions as best-practice guides and technical assistance.

For more information, please visit:

**R&D: SENATE COMMERCE EXAMINES FEDERAL ROLE IN R&D**

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held a hearing titled, "The Federal Research Portfolio: Capitalizing on Investments in R&D," on Thursday, July 17, 2014. The hearing considered the federal government's role in research and development (R&D), and the nation's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and outreach initiatives. Recognizing the need for long-term investments in science and technology, Congress passed the America COMPETES Acts of 2007 and 2010 to significantly increase key federal R&D budgets, to promote STEM education, and to support the innovation necessary for economic growth. In light of the upcoming reauthorization of this bill, members considered policy questions such as appropriate levels of federal funding, the balance between support for basic and translational research, and the criteria for awarding research grants.

Witnesses included: Dr. Vinton G. Cerf, Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google; Member, National Science Board (NSF); Ms. Mariette DiChristina, Editor in Chief and Senior Vice President, Scientific American; Dr. Neal F. Lane, Senior Fellow in Science and Technology Policy, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Malcolm Gillis University Professor and Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Rice University Co-Chair, Committee on New Models for U.S. Science and Technology Policy, American Academy of Arts & Sciences; and Dr. Stephen E. Fienberg, Maurice Falk University Professor of Statistics and Social Science, Department of Statistics, the Machine Learning Department, the Heinz College, and Cylab Carnegie Mellon University.

"While the primary focus of attention in this panel is on basic research, I feel compelled to observe that basic and applied research go hand-in-hand, informing and stimulating each other in a never-ending Yin and Yang of partnership. In some ways, applied research is a form of validation because the success (or failure) of the application may reinforce or contradict the theoretically predicted results and the underlying theory. Basic research tries to understand and applied research tries to do and often one must pursue both in the effort to uncover new knowledge," opened Dr. Cerf, a scientist who played an integral role in the early development of the internet. Using the internet as an example, he illustrated the interplay of basic and applied research, the importance of federal funding for research and development, the long-term nature of attaining tangible results, and the inherently risky ventures that scientific undertakings are. Witnesses, including Dr. Cerf, espoused the benefits of federal investments in basic scientific research by describing the historical role of the federal government in some of the greatest scientific achievements of the modern era.

Speaking more specifically about how the U.S. can increase the returns on current federal investments in scientific research, Dr. Stephen Fienberg discussed the findings of the Committee on Assessing the Value of Research in Advancing National Goals of the National Research Council, established with funding from the National Science Foundation pursuant to the America COMPETES Act. In their report, Furthering America's Research Enterprise, the Committee concluded: (1) current
measures are inadequate to guide national decisions about what research investments will expand the benefits of science, (2) the American research enterprise is indeed capable of producing increased benefits for U.S. society, as well as for the global community, and (3) that increasing the benefits from the federal investment in research depends far less on federal promotion of the commercialization of research discoveries or on trying to predict the scientific fields that are most likely to lead to commercial products and services, than on federal policies that promote the conditions for the research enterprise to thrive.

On this last point, the Committee emphasized that the characteristics of the American research enterprise that have historically allowed it to thrive – decentralized, pluralistic, competitive, meritocratic, and entrepreneurial – must continue to be fostered if that enterprise will continue to support the preeminence of the United States in the STEM fields. "Measures of research activities, outputs, and technology transfer are important, but we need to improve both the measures and the underlying data. Greater benefit will come from measures to guide the pillars of the research enterprise – talent, resources, and basic research. If we cultivate talent, provide adequate and dependable resources, and invest in a diversity of basic research, fresh discoveries will continue to power our economy and to enrich our lives in unpredictable and unimaginable ways," Dr. Fienberg concluded.

For more information, please visit:
http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Hearings&ContentRecord_id=9c3d3e8b-b2a7-4def-bd97-ae9c3b50daba&ContentType_id=14f995b9-dfa5-407a-9d35-56cc7152a7ed&Group_id=b06c39af-e033-4cba-9221-de668ca1978a