



April 24, 2026

The Honorable Sam Liccardo
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: *Keep Innovators in America Act* (H.R. 8013)

Dear Representatives Liccardo, Obernolte, and Krishnamoorthi:

Thank you for introducing H.R. 8013, the *Keep Innovators in America Act*, and for your leadership in strengthening U.S. competitiveness. Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a critical link in the talent pipeline relied upon by our member companies, particularly in STEM-intensive industries including the artificial intelligence, engineering, and biomedical fields.

More than half of all international students in the United States pursue STEM degrees, and nearly 70% of international STEM graduates participate in OPT. This pathway allows employers to connect U.S.-based education and training to practical application in the workplace, supporting cutting-edge research and development at a time of persistent talent shortages. From both the business and national security perspectives, OPT ensures that skills developed at U.S. universities are applied to strengthening our nation's economy, rather than benefiting foreign competitors such as China that actively seek U.S.-trained technical and scientific talent.

We appreciate your leadership in advancing legislation that reinforces a pragmatic, time-limited talent pipeline essential to America's economic and technological leadership.

Sincerely,

Neil L. Bradley
Executive Vice President, Chief Policy Officer,
and Head of Strategic Advocacy
U.S. Chamber of Commerce