



February 4, 2013

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Conyers:

ACT is greatly encouraged that the House and Senate both appear to be moving forward to address immigration reform. Because of the difficulty finding highly skilled workers in the software industry, small business tech companies have had to look outside our borders to fill openings. It is essential for our industry's long-term viability, however, that we significantly grow our domestic workforce in this field. Immigration legislation that directs increased fees from recaptured green cards and H-1Bs to STEM education programs would greatly help the United States maintain its continued leadership in the tech economy.

The technology sector finds itself in this difficult predicament because U.S. schools and universities produce far fewer graduates in STEM fields than our industry requires. This is a problem that affects startups and small companies as well as industry giants. ACT's small business members repeatedly raise STEM education as a central issue with their elected representatives whenever visiting Washington. There are tens of thousands of positions in our industry that offer high wages and generous benefits that remain unfilled because we cannot find enough workers with the skills we need.

While increasing the number of green cards and H-1B visas can help relieve our immediate staffing needs, we must improve resources in American schools to meet our industry's growing need for skilled workers. The number of computer sciences classes offered in our schools has been steadily dropping despite the increased demand for jobs in this field. Making a commitment to expand STEM education at the secondary and university level is critical in order to produce enough graduates ready for this high-wage marketplace. This must be our long-range goal so we do not remain dependent on foreign labor.

ACT's members are encouraged that proposals are being considered to address the shortage of high-skilled workers through both immigration and investment in STEM education. This linked approach, addressing our immediate needs while investing in the future of our economy, is the ideal solution.

We are thankful for your consideration of these matters and look forward to working with you to tackle these issues critical to our industry's future.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Zuck  
President

