



January 14, 2015

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The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chair
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: The Immigration Innovation Act of 2015

Dear Chairman Grassley and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express ITIF's strong support of the Immigration Innovation Act of 2015 (I-Squared), authored by Senators Hatch, Klobuchar, Rubio, Coons, Flake, and Blumenthal. I-Squared would greatly improve the system regulating high-skilled immigration and promote recruitment and retention of the work force skills and intellectual capacity that are imperative to enhancing innovation in the United States.

Further, the Act provides a common-sense solution that meets the needs of our high tech economy without hurting domestic employment. Under the plan, the cap for H-1B visas would be allowed to rise automatically, up to 195,000, based on demand, allowing employers to attract foreign skills if American workers cannot fill the requisite job openings. It's important to note that these new high skill workers would result in even more jobs in the U.S. economy, not just through their own spending but through their ability to make their employers more globally competitive. This is a marked improvement over the often inadequate, hard cap of 65,000, which does not meet the workforce needs of American companies and bars intelligent and driven individuals from bringing their talents to the United States.

The Act also provides a reliable source of sorely needed funding— without increasing the budget deficit— to fund STEM education programs targeted at helping American residents get the skills companies need to be more innovative and globally competitive.

I urge the Committee to take up this important legislation and assist in promoting its passage during the 2015-16 legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert D. Atkinson'.

Dr. Robert D. Atkinson
President and Founder
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation