



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 30, 2012

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Matthew Berry, 202-418-2005
Email: matthew.berry@fcc.gov

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI ON THE STEM JOBS ACT

I commend the U.S. House of Representatives for taking action to allow additional foreign graduates with advanced degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to remain in the United States. We should be proud that our nation's institutions of higher education attract exceptionally talented students from around the world. However, it does not make sense to educate those students here in the United States only to require them to leave the country following graduation.

We know that highly educated STEM professionals will innovate, create jobs, and produce economic growth. The only question is whether that entrepreneurial spirit will find a home in the United States or some other country. A sensible STEM immigration policy, therefore, is critical to the competitiveness of our nation's economy generally and our information and communications technology (ICT) sector in particular. We should encourage STEM graduates to settle the Silicon Prairie, not venture overseas. We should enable the next Google, the next Intel, and the next Sun Microsystems to be founded here, not abroad. Today's vote by the House of Representatives is an important step toward making these aspirations become realities.

I also applaud those in the U.S. Senate who are working on this issue. Senators Moran, Warner, Rubio, and Coons, for example, have come together to co-sponsor the Startup Act 2.0. I hope that legislators will continue to work across party lines in this fashion to enact STEM immigration reform.