

(Washington, DC) - This week, Rep. Jason Altmire (PA-4) announced that House Democrats took the first of many steps during the 110th Congress to implement an Innovation Agenda that will spur economic growth and unleash the next generation of discovery.

"This week, Congress unveiled its Innovation Agenda, which represents the culmination of two years of work with academic and business leaders to make our nation better able to compete successfully in the global economy. With our Innovation Agenda, we will assert our global economic leadership, create new business ventures and jobs, and give future generations their own opportunity to achieve the American Dream," Rep. Altmire pointed out. This agenda involves partnerships with the private sector to invest in a workforce ready for global competition. It will create a new generation of innovators; invest in federal research and development; spur affordable access to broadband; achieve energy independence; and provide small business with tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation.

The House passed legislation that addresses crucial innovation and competitiveness issues for our country. The measures included legislation that will support young researchers to foster the most innovative scientific research (H.R. 363) and make capital more accessible for small businesses, which are catalysts for technological innovation (H.R. 1332).

The House also passed H.R. 362, the "10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds" Science and Math Scholarship Act. The legislation will assure that the United States is prepared to produce a larger number of qualified, well-equipped math and science teachers.

"H.R. 362 will invest in the goal of 10,000 new science, math and technology teachers for our children and will support the ongoing professional development of our current teachers," said Rep. Altmire. "It's not good enough to have the best engineering and science universities in the world. We must also have the best science and math education at our primary and secondary school levels in order to nurture our next generation of innovators."

Already this year, House Democrats have led the way in promoting innovation through smart investments in education, science, and research and development in the Continuing Resolution and the fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution.