

National Strategy to Ensure American Leadership (SEAL) Act of 2021

Background:

In 1960, the United States contributed to 69% of global research and development investments, but by 2018, we accounted for just 27.6% of investments. Nations across the world are increasing their research footprints, and we run the risk of falling behind in a number of scientific endeavors like 5G mobile networks, artificial intelligence, and biotechnologies. As China continues to increase its research and development investments and corners markets on disruptive technologies, the United States must safeguard its role as a leader in cutting-edge science and innovation. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's 2005 report, "[Rising Above the Gathering Storm](#)," rang the warning bell about our nation's eroding competitiveness and highlighted critical steps to enhance the research enterprise and STEM education. Now, we must think beyond the technologies of today to the ideas of tomorrow.

The National Strategy to Ensure American Leadership (SEAL) Act of 2021 calls on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to identify the top emerging science and technology challenges and provide recommendations to ensure the United States remains competitive and secure in the global economy. By anticipating new frontiers and supporting research, innovation, and entrepreneurs, we can continue to lead the world in discovery.

Bill Summary:

This bill would direct the Secretary of Commerce to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to identify the ten most critical emerging science and technology challenges facing the United States and make recommendations for legislative or administrative action to ensure U.S. leadership in those areas.

Members Sponsoring the Bill:

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

Endorsing Organizations:

American Astronomical Society
American Mathematical Society
Carnegie Institution for Science
CTIA
National Photonics Initiative
TechNet