



## House Passes S&T Bill to Strengthen Cybersecurity with an Overwhelming Majority

Throughout the 111th Congress, the Committee has made improving cybersecurity a top priority. This Congress alone, the Committee has held four hearings on cybersecurity research and development (R&D). On [February 4](#), the House passed [H.R. 4061](#), the *Cybersecurity Enhancement Act*, by a vote of 422 to 5.

This bill will improve cybersecurity within the federal government, public and private sectors by helping to develop a skilled cybersecurity workforce, coordinating and prioritizing the federal R&D portfolio, improving the transfer of cybersecurity technologies to the marketplace, and promoting cybersecurity education and awareness for the general public.



(From T to B): Chairman Gordon, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment Vice Chairman Paul Tonko, and Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper at the markup on [November 18, 2009](#).

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## Committee Reviews FY 2011 R&D Budget Proposal



Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird questioning [Dr. John Holdren](#).

At the end of February, the Committee held several hearings to discuss the Administration's FY 2011 research and development (R&D) budget proposal. On [February 24](#), the Full Committee met with [Dr. John Holdren](#), the president's top science advisor and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to discuss the Administration's proposed R&D budget for agencies under the [Committee's jurisdiction](#).

In preparation for the reauthorization of the [America COMPETES Act](#), Members discussed the status of programs authorized in the bill. The FY 2011 request would keep the three science agencies authorized in COMPETES on a doubling path.

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E-NEWS

### Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the February edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter.

The Committee appreciates your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also [sign up](#) to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon,  
Chairman,  
U.S. House Committee

### February Hearings:

[February 3](#) — *Passenger Screening R&D: Responding to President Obama's Call to Develop and Deploy the Next Generation of Screening Technologies*

[February 3](#) — *Key Issues and Challenges Facing NASA: Views of the Agency's Watchdogs*

[February 4](#) — *Strengthening Undergraduate and Graduate STEM Education*

[February 4](#) — *Geoengineering II: The Scientific Basis and Engineering Challenges*

[February 23](#) — *The State of Research Infrastructure at U.S. Universities*

[February 24](#) — *How Can NIST Better Serve the Needs of the Biomedical Research Community in the 21st Century?*

[February 24](#) — *The Administration's FY2011 Research and Development Budget*

[February 25](#) — *NASA's FY2011 Budget Request and Issues*

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## Subcommittee Stressed Importance of Airport Screening R&D to Ensure its Effectiveness & Public Acceptance

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(From L to R): Rep. David Wu, Dr. Penrose Albright, and Mr. Brad Buswell meeting before the hearing.

On February 3, the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee held a hearing to review airline passenger screening research, development, testing, and deployment activities at the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Department of Energy National Laboratories. Subcommittee Chairman

David Wu emphasized the significance of conducting research on the public's acceptance of new airport screening technologies and procedures before implementation.

[Read more about this hearing >>](#)



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## House Passes S&T Legislation

On February 4, the House passed H.R. 4061, the *Cybersecurity Enhancement Act*, by a vote of 422 to 5.

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## Subcommittee Works to Meet U.S.'s Long-term Research & Workforce Needs by Strengthening STEM Ed

On February 4, the Research and Science Education Subcommittee held a hearing to review the current state of the nation's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education system at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

At the hearing, Subcommittee Members discussed ways to improve STEM education and the role the National Science Foundation (NSF) should play in supporting STEM education reform. Overall, Members and witnesses agreed that systemic reform of higher education in the STEM fields will be critical to meeting America's research and workforce needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century's global economy.



(From L to R): Rep. Paul Tonko and Rep. John Garamendi listening to a witness testify at the STEM hearing on February 4, 2010.

[Read more about the Committee's work on STEM education>>](#)

## Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request

On February 1, Chairman Bart Gordon responded to President Obama's FY 2011 R&D budget proposal. Chairman Gordon applauded the increases in the budget request for the agencies in COMPETES (NSF, NIST, DOE Office of Science).

The Committee has held several hearings to review R&D budget proposal for several agencies, such as DOE Office of Science, NOAA, EPA, and NSF.

## Looking Ahead

In March, the Committee will hold hearings on STEM, rare earth minerals, manufacturing, and geoengineering. For more information, visit the Committee's website.

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