

# Declining International STEM Student Enrollment Threatens US Economy and Global S&T Leadership

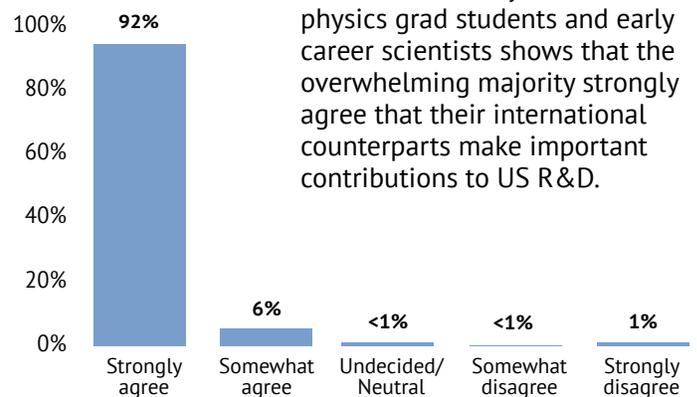
## ACTION

In any immigration bill going forward, Members of Congress should support including the following two provisions that will help the United States attract the best and brightest students:

- authorize international students pursuing advanced STEM degrees to express their intent to stay in the US and pursue their careers post-graduation; and
- provide any international student who earns a PhD in a STEM discipline a clear path to a green card by exempting them from any green card caps.

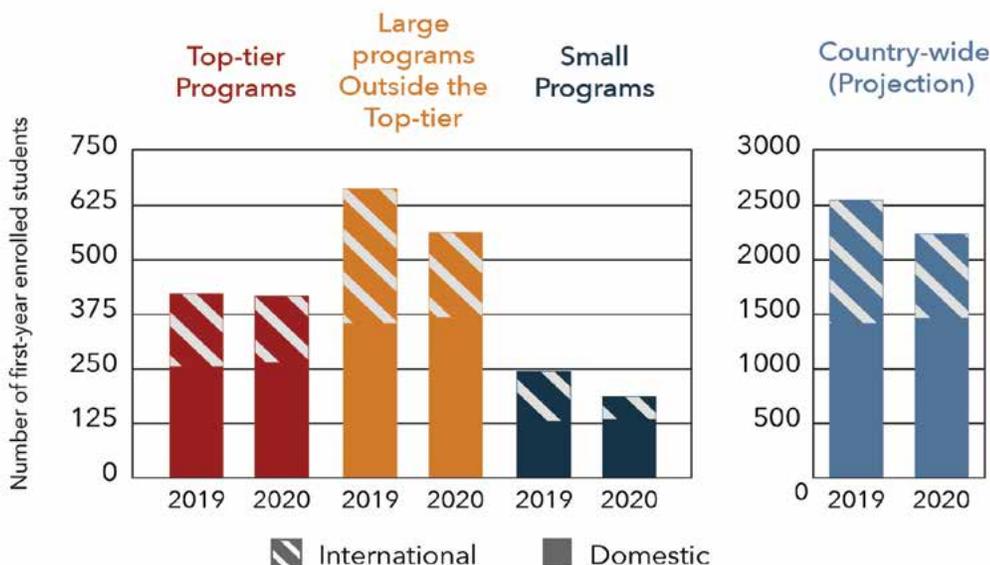
### International Students Benefit US Scientific Enterprise

- International students contributed nearly \$41 billion to the US economy and supported more than 458,000 jobs during the 2018-19 academic year.
- As of 2018, immigrants had founded more than half of privately held billion-dollar startup companies in the United States, with 21 having a founder who first came to the United States as an international student.



### Declining International Student Enrollment

The result, as presented in APS's [Building the STEM Workforce report](#): Nationwide, there is an approximately 10% decrease in the total first-year physics PhD students in 2020 compared to 2019, creating an immediate hole in the STEM workforce pipeline.



### Providing a Clear Career Path is Key

Nearly 90% of APS's respondents agree that they are more likely to consider applying to graduate school or for postdoc in a country that has a clear path to stay and work once they finish their degree or PhD.