**CGA NEWS**

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To:       CGA

From:   A۰P۰L۰U Congressional and Governmental Affairs Staff

                      House Expected to Take Up STEM Visa Bill

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                      House Expected to Take Up STEM Visa Bill

 Sources are reporting that a new version of the *STEM Jobs Act*, a previous version of which was defeated under “suspension of the rules” earlier this fall, will be brought up for another vote under a different rule next Friday.  The bill, introduced by Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX), will likely have four significant changes from the original version:

 1)                  Removal of the provision excluding from participation students from universities that utilize commission based international recruiters

2)                  Removal of the five-year work in the U.S. requirement

3)                  Addition of a four-year roll-over of unused visas in the EB-6 and -7 categories

4)                  Addition of a provision to allow children and spouses of the main beneficiary to remain in the United States while waiting for legal status

 It is A۰P۰L۰U’s current understanding that the bill does not yet signify an agreement between Chairman Smith and Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), the cosponsor of a similar bill in the Senate, so further action in the lame-duck session is unclear.

                      ED Releases Report on International Education Strategy

 Earlier this month, the Department of Education released a [report](http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/internationaled/international-strategy-2012-16.html" \t "_blank) detailing its international education strategy for 2012-2016.  The report highlights four key objectives:

 1)                  Increase global competencies

2)                  Learn from other countries

3)                  Engage in education diplomacy

4)                  Integrate and coordinate activities and programs

                      A۰P۰L۰U Compiles Background Document on Freshmen of 113th Congress

 The A۰P۰L۰U staff has compiled a background document (attached) on the freshmen members of the 113th Congress for use by the CGA.  Although it is not yet complete due to several races that were and are still too close call, the document can serve as a starting point for CGA members who wish to learn more about the new members of the House and the Senate.