



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

Opening Statement

Congressman Jamaal Bowman (D-NY)

Conference Kickoff Meeting
May 12, 2022

Thank you, Chair Johnson and Speaker Pelosi, for giving me the opportunity to participate in this conference committee. And thank you to Chair Cantwell for convening us here today. You know, prior to coming to Congress, I had the pleasure of being an educator for over 20 years. I worked in K-12 schools in the Bronx and parts of Manhattan that served our most vulnerable and most needy students who lived in communities that have been redlined by the United States Congress many decades ago.

These are kids and communities that have been underinvested and under-resourced for their entire lives. So despite how brilliant they were, because they didn't have access and opportunity to the resources that other kids in other communities have, they begin to internalize that they do not matter and they do not have access to the American dream. As we seek to compete with other nations, we have to look in the mirror and ask ourselves, are we investing equitably in the children of our country and are we investing equitably in the communities of our nation?

Because without equity, we do not have a democracy without equity, we cannot compete with any other nation that we are concerned about. If we invest equitably, a rising tide lifts all boats and gives every American the opportunity to be a part of the American dream. Our kids are creative, dynamic and innovative. When we talk about STEM education, we have to talk about a K-12 pipeline that creates opportunities for all children.

I also want to mention the expanding role of NSF in this agenda will be essential. But as chair of the Energy Subcommittee on House Science, I'm eager to see the Department of Energy play a central role as well. That is why the House bill includes legislation like the Department of Energy Science for the Future Act, the first ever comprehensive authorization of DOE's Office of Science. This legislation enables paradigm shifting research from discovering the basic building blocks of matter to the development of revolutionary clean energy technologies like next generation batteries and nuclear fusion. I yield back.