



Business Roundtable™

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Business Roundtable Calls for Renewed Focus on Math and Science Education in Light of PISA 2006 Results**

*Congress Should Fund Programs to Recruit and Train More Qualified Math and Science Teachers*

**Washington, DC** – Business Roundtable, an association of 160 chief executive officers of leading U.S. corporations, today expressed concern about the relatively poor performance of American students on OECD’s Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2006 science competency test. Business Roundtable has a long-term and continuing commitment to improving science education in the United States.

“A solid grounding in math and science for U.S. students is one of the keys to the United States’ ability to compete in the global economy,” said Business Roundtable President John J. Castellani. “It is also one of the keys to individual success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace. The mediocre performance of U.S. students on the PISA 2006 science and math assessments is yet another indicator showing that the United States faces a critical talent gap in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and is not keeping pace with foreign competition.”

Business Roundtable remains strongly committed to advocating public policies that improve U.S. STEM education performance and workforce competitiveness. As part of this ongoing effort, Business Roundtable championed passage of the “America COMPETES Act,” which authorizes new federal investments in STEM education, teacher training, and incentives for math and science undergraduate majors to pursue teaching careers.

“We urge Congress to provide full funding for the ‘America COMPETES Act’ in the current appropriations cycle. America’s future competitiveness depends on it,” concluded Castellani.

For more information on Business Roundtable and its education-related, visit [www.businessroundtable.org](http://www.businessroundtable.org).

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*Business Roundtable* ([www.businessroundtable.org](http://www.businessroundtable.org)) is an association of chief executive officers of leading U.S. companies with \$4.5 trillion in annual revenues and more than 10 million employees. Member companies comprise nearly a third of the total value of the U.S. stock markets and represent over 40 percent of all corporate income taxes paid. Collectively, they returned \$112 billion in dividends to shareholders and the economy in 2005.

*Roundtable companies give more than \$7 billion a year in combined charitable contributions, representing nearly 60 percent of total corporate giving. They are technology innovation leaders, with \$90 billion in annual research and development spending – nearly half of the total private R&D spending in the U.S.*