Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary:

We write to you regarding H.R. 3987, Jobs in America Act, which was introduced by Arizona Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema on November 5th, 2015 and assigned to your committee for consideration.

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) represents the 6,800 graduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in all matters concerning their welfare, academic opportunities, and professional careers after graduation. We support all measures that make more employment opportunities and more employment-based visas available to international students who obtain their graduate degrees in the US. Therefore, we strongly support Bill H.R. 3987.

MIT students and faculty have founded more than 30,000 currently active companies that employ about 4.6 million people and generate annual revenues of $1.9 trillion, which is equivalent to the world’s 10th largest economy. As 43% of MIT graduate students are international students, many of these companies are founded outside of the US. A recent study from the National Foundation of American Policy shows that immigrants started 51% of the current U.S. based start-ups valued at $1 billion or more. The absence of straightforward immigration solutions for US-trained entrepreneurs thus feeds the stream of students returning to their home countries upon graduation and strengthening foreign economies.

The Jobs in America Act proposes a “StartUp visa” immigration solution that allows highly-skilled foreign entrepreneurs to start their own business in the United States if they are able to secure highly competitive startup funding. The Bill mandates that the funded business not only create a certain amount of revenue in the US but also full-time jobs for American workers. Thus, we believe that the StartUp visa offers a very valuable addition to existing immigration pathways.

We urge you to report this bill favorably and send it to the floor of the House for a vote. The passage of H.R. 3987 would enable graduate students from MIT and other universities to apply their skills in the United States, strengthen our economy, and create American jobs.

Best regards,

Daniel Franke
MIT GSC Executive Committee

Peter Su
MIT GSC Legislative Action