

March 20, 2008

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***It's About Innovation:  
Fact of the Week***

## **The H-1B Lottery Countdown Continues**

**Bill Gates Testifies to Importance of High-Skilled Immigration Reform ...**

### **So Why Are We Playing Games with America's Innovation Future?**

In congressional testimony last week, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates explained the result of Congress' inaction on high-skilled immigration reform:

***"...[M]any U.S. firms, including Microsoft, have been forced to locate staff in countries that welcome skilled foreign workers to do work that could otherwise have been done in the United States, if it were not for our counterproductive immigration policies. Last year, for example, Microsoft was unable to obtain H-1B visas for one-third of the highly qualified foreign-born job candidates that we wanted to hire."***

Now is the time to reform the employment-based visa system, not throw highly educated professionals into a government-run lottery system. But that's exactly what will happen on April 1, 2008 when the 2009 cap on H-1B visas is expected to be hit on the very first day that U.S. employers can even file for them.

**America can't leave its innovation leadership to chance!**

***The H-1B visa and EB green card systems  
must be reformed this year.***

To learn more about highly educated immigration, visit [www.competeamerica.org](http://www.competeamerica.org).

*Compete America (www.competeamerica.org) is a coalition of corporations, educators, research institutions and trade associations concerned about legal, employment-based immigration and committed to ensuring that the United States has the highly educated workforce necessary to ensure continued innovation, job creation and leadership in a worldwide economy.*