

STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

March 27, 2007

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman
Committee on Science and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ralph Hall
Ranking Member
Committee on Science and Technology
2405 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20514

Dear Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member Hall:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we are writing in support of HR 524, the Partnerships for Access to Laboratory Science (PALS) Act. This legislation – authored by Rep. Ruben Hinojosa and co-sponsored by a large and bi-partisan group of House members – will help create a pilot program at the National Science Foundation (NSF) that will help explore the best ways to improve high school science laboratory facilities in the most high-need schools.

Throughout our nation's history, American economic and technological strength has been built upon a large and highly-skilled domestic workforce of scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians – the STEM workforce. It is our hope that the Science and Technology Committee and then full House will move quickly to pass this innovative legislation so that more of today's youth can be exposed to hands-on science learning opportunities that can inspire them to pursue careers in science and technology – professions that will help our country remain the world's economic and technological leader.

The STEM Education Coalition is composed of a diverse range of groups representing all sectors of the technological workforce – from knowledge workers, to educators and education researchers, to scientists, engineers, and technicians. Our Coalition works constructively to raise awareness in Congress, the Administration, and other organizations about the critical role that STEM education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leader of the global marketplace of the 21st century. We also support robust federal investments in basic scientific research to inspire current and future generations of young people to pursue careers in STEM fields.

If we can provide you any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact James Brown at 202-872-6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703-312-9214.

Sincerely,

American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Chemical Society
American Council on Education
Association of Educational Publishers
ASHRAE
Business Higher Education Forum
Campaign for Environmental Literacy
Exploratorium
Hands on Science Partnership
Institute of Food Technologists
Marine Technology Society
Museum of Science–Boston
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Education Association
National Education Knowledge Industry Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
Project Lead the Way
SAE International
STEM Education Society
Triangle Coalition
University of Kansas