

STEM Education Coalition



March 27, 2007

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

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall
Ranking Member
Committee of Science and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member Hall:

On behalf of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, thank you for your leadership to improve STEM education programs by introducing H.R. 362, the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act. Our Coalition believes that the National Science Foundation (NSF) plays an invaluable role in promoting rigor and excellence in math and science education. We strongly support the mission of NSF's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate and its efforts to foster improvements in K-12, undergraduate, graduate, continuing education, vocational, and informal STEM education. The STEM Ed Coalition supports H.R. 362 and we stand ready to assist you and your staff as this bill moves through Congress.

The 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act makes many important strides in improving STEM education across the nation by implementing recommendations found in the National Academies report "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." This legislation will have a great impact on teacher preparation, will strengthen and expand the STEM teacher workforce, and attract more of our best and brightest students into the STEM fields.

H.R. 362 will help build capacity to reform STEM education by providing in-service teachers with much needed content development and by strengthening curriculum. We are also pleased that many of initiatives in H.R. 362 will expand existing successful NSF programs, such as the Teacher Institutes for 21st Century, the Tech Talent expansion program, and the Noyce Scholarship Program, which encourages talented STEM undergraduate students and postgraduate professionals to become K-12 mathematics and science teachers.

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 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.

Thank you for your strong support of the National Science Foundation and its vital educational missions. If we can provide you with any additional information or assistance, please 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 Association of University Women
American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Chemical Society
American Council on Education
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
Association of Educational Publishers
ASTRA – The Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America
Computing Research Association
Exploratorium
IEEE-USA
Museum of Science-Boston
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Education Association
National Education Knowledge Industry Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
New England Council
Project Lead the Way
SAE International
SPIE – The International Society for Optical Engineering
University of Kansas