

# ***Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics*** **(STEM) Education Coalition**

July 20, 2005

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon  
House Education and the Workforce Committee  
Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness  
H2-230 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6100

Dear Chairman McKeon:

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition would like to thank you along with Representatives Ehlers, Holt and Kind for your efforts to enhance and improve math and science education as part of the Higher Education Act.

Our coalition is composed of a diverse range of stakeholders that represent all sectors of the technological workforce – from knowledge workers, to educators, scientists, engineers, technicians, and representatives from the business community. The STEM Education Coalition was established prior to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. We have continually supported programs at the Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and other agencies that offer STEM related programs for teachers and students.

Excellent math and science programs in our K-12 classrooms and in our higher education institutions are both vital to our nation's long-term economic prosperity, global competitiveness, and homeland security. We commend your effort to provide direct financial incentives for students to pursue careers in the STEM fields. The Robert C. Byrd Mathematics And Science Honors Scholarships will play an important role in recruiting some of America's most talented and gifted students into the STEM fields. Similarly, we support loan forgiveness programs for qualified individuals who enter and remain in STEM fields, including teaching, for at least five years.

Finally, we support the creation of Mathematics and Science Education Coordinating Council grants. This effort to bring together education, business and community leaders at the state level - all with the purpose of improving math and science education - represents a unique opportunity to harness the creativity and resourcefulness of local stakeholders.

Chairman McKeon, we look forward to working with you and other members of the Committee to continue to make improvements for math and science education as the HEA moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Science, Technology and Research in  
America  
American Association of Physicists in Medicine  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Chemical Society  
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
Association of Science-Technology Centers  
Mathematical Association of America  
Museum of Science, Boston

National Association of Biology Teachers  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Education Knowledge Industry Association  
National Science Teachers Association  
Optical Society of America  
Project Lead the Way  
Society of Women Engineers  
SPIE- International Society for Optical Engineering  
Triangle Coalition