

**K-12 SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING
& MATHEMATICS
EDUCATION COALITION**

Acoustical Society of America

AeA

*American Association of Physicists in
Medicine*

*American Association of Physics
Teachers*

American Astronomical Society

*American Educational Research
Association*

American Geological Institute

American Geophysical Union

*American Institute of Biological
Sciences*

American Institute of Physics

American Meteorological Society

American Physical Society

American Physiological Society

American Society of Agronomy

American Society of Civil Engineers

*American Society of Mechanical
Engineers*

American Sociological Association

ASEE Engineering Deans Council

Association for Women in Mathematics

Council on Undergraduate Research

Crop Science Society of America

Ecological Society of America

*Institute of Electrical & Electronics
Engineers-USA*

*International Technology Education
Association*

*National Council for Teachers of
Mathematics*

National Science Teachers Association

*National Society of Professional
Engineers*

Optical Society of America

Society of Automotive Engineers

Society of Women Engineers

Soil Science Society of America

*The Federation of Behavioral,
Psychological, & Cognitive Sciences*

Triangle Coalition

April 13, 2004

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman, Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We encourage you to continue the federal commitment to math and science education by maintaining the peer-reviewed Math and Science Partnerships (MSPs) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and supporting robust funding for both the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the NSF Math and Science Partnership programs.

We urge you to oppose the Administration's budget proposal that would phase-out the NSF MSP program and establish a new federal grant administered by the Secretary of Education that would, in effect, limit individual states' discretion to target much-needed funds for local science and mathematics education reforms.

We believe that the MSPs at both the Department of Education and at NSF are necessary and complementary. Without one, the other is significantly weakened.

The competitive, peer-reviewed, NSF MSPs seek to develop scientifically sound, model, reform initiatives that will improve teacher quality, develop challenging curricula, and increase student achievement in mathematics and science. The funds appropriated under NCLB for the ED MSPs go directly to the states as formula grants, providing funds to **all** states to replicate and implement these initiatives throughout the country.

While we support the Administration's proposal to increase funding for the ED MSPs, we oppose the creation of a new \$120 million ED grant program that runs counter to congressional intent by focusing only on math and reducing state flexibility to target funds to areas of greatest need. We encourage you to oppose new restrictions on the additional funding slotted for the state-based ED MSPs.

In summary, we strongly urge Congress to: 1) reject the Administration's proposed phase-out of the NSF MSP program; 2) oppose additional restrictions to the ED MSP program; and, 3) provide robust funding for **both** MSP programs.

If you have any questions, please contact Patti Curtis at 202.785.7385.