

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION COALITION

American Association of Physics Teachers
American Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Society of Civil Engineers
ASEE Engineering Deans Council
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association of Science-Technology Centers, Inc.
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America
Chicago Educational Publishing Co
Education Development Center, Inc
Engineers Without Borders -- USA
Institute of Food Technologists
JETS
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association of Biology Teachers
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Education Knowledge Industry Association
National Science Teachers Association
Project Lead the Way
Society of Women Engineers
SPIE-The International Society for Optical Engineering
TERC
Triangle Coalition

October 28, 2005

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice and Science
110 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby:

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition urges you to **adopt the House mark for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Education and Human Resources Directorate (\$807 m) but include Senate funding level for the Math and Science Partnership Program (\$64m)** when the Commerce, Justice and Science Bill Appropriations bill comes to conference.

While we recognize that these are tight budgetary times and the challenges we face are great, a strong consensus is emerging among leaders that our nation's future competitiveness in the global marketplace is directly tied to the ability of our K-12 schools to prepare children in mathematics, science, and engineering.

In fact, on October 12 a blue ribbon panel of business leaders, scientists, researchers, and educators--convened by the National Academy of Sciences--issued a report to Congress recommending ten top actions that federal policy makers could take to enhance the nation's science and technology enterprise so that the United States can successfully compete and prosper in the global community of the 21st Century. **The number one action item on the panel's list of recommendations was to improve K-12 science and mathematics education.**

Robust funding for FY06 STEM education programs at NSF will ensure that the United States continues to attract more of our best and brightest students into the STEM field. The \$64 million appropriated for the NSF Math and Science Partnership program will provide much-needed funding for this vital program targeted at improving the STEM skills of our K-12 students.

The House funding level (\$807 m) for programs under the NSF Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate will provide research and development to build the STEM education infrastructure, and continue the instructional materials, professional development, and innovations in technology utilized by thousands of schools and students nationwide.

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition is composed of a diverse range of over 40 groups representing all sectors of the technological workforce – from knowledge workers, to educators and education researchers, to scientists, engineers, and technicians. Our coalition has been in existence prior to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and has continually supported STEM related programs for teachers and students.

Please contact James Brown at 202.872.6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703.312.9214 if we can provide you with any additional information or assistance.