

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION COALITION

American Association of Physics Teachers
American Chemical Society
American Educational Research Association
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Aeronautics and
Astronautics
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Society of Civil Engineers
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association of Science-Technology Centers,
Inc.
BSCS
Center for Educational Outreach, Whiting
School of Engineering, Johns Hopkins
University
Concord Consortium
Education Development Center, Inc
Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers-
USA
Institute of Food Technologists
International Technology Education
Association
Johns Hopkins University
Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley
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-The International Society for Optical
Engineering
Technology Student Association
TERC
Triangle Coalition

July 27, 2005

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
Committee on Appropriations
S-146A
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby:

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition would like to express our appreciation for the \$4 million increase provided by the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science for the Math and Science Partnership (MSP) program at the National Science Foundation (NSF). While we are encouraged by this increase, we are disappointed that other important STEM programs in the NSF Education and Human Resources Directorate were not funded and will face significant reductions next year.

Our nation's future economic prosperity and global competitiveness will depend in large measure on our ability to better educate our young people in math and science. We agree with the Subcommittee that the NSF should play a significant role in attracting more of our best and brightest students into the STEM fields, and our coalition looks forward to working with you and other members of the Subcommittee to ensure that the NSF succeeds in this important mission.

The additional \$4 million appropriated for the NSF MSP program is a positive step toward restoring much-needed funding for this vital program targeted at improving the math and science skills of our K-12 students. We also greatly appreciate your efforts to include report language opposing the combination of the NSF MSP program with its counterpart at the Department of Education. We are grateful for your leadership in ensuring the continuation of this important program.

While we applaud you and the Subcommittee for your clear support for the NSF MSP program, we are disappointed by the 11 percent reduction in funding for the NSF Education and Human Resources Directorate, including programs under the Elementary, Secondary and Informal Education (ESIE) division; the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) programs; and the Research, Evaluation and Communication division, all of which have already seen significant reductions compared to FY05 and FY04. We are hopeful that this trend can be reversed this year and in future years.

We thank you again for your efforts and leadership on behalf of the NSF Math and Science Partnerships and hope we can continue to work together to strengthen STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

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.