

STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

September 28, 2006

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2351 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2205 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20514

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Miller:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we are writing in support of HR 5139, the STEM Scholarship Database Act. This legislation – authored by Rep. Rush Holt and co-sponsored by a large and bi-partisan group of House members – will help to expand the STEM education pipeline and help keep our nation competitive in the global economy by helping capable students who are interested in STEM careers find the right scholarship opportunity to help support their studies. We urge the Committee to grant approval for this measure so it can be considered for inclusion on the House suspension calendar.

Throughout our nation's history, American economic and technological strength has been built upon a large and highly-skilled domestic workforce of scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians – the STEM workforce. We strongly support efforts to encourage more of our best and brightest students, especially women and those from underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, to study in STEM fields. The STEM Scholarship Database Act, which is co-sponsored by 10 members of the Committee from both parties, sets out a straightforward action that will help advance this goal.

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 aggressively 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.

If we can provide you any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact James Brown at 202-872-6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703-312-9214.

Sincerely,

Acoustical Society of America

ACT

Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America (ASTRA)

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education

American Association of Physicists in Medicine

American Astronomical Society

American Chemical Society

American Mathematical Society

American Society of Civil Engineers

ASME Center for Public Awareness

Association of Science-Technology Centers

Business Higher Education Forum

Computing Research Association

East Initiative

Education Development Corporation

Engineers Without Borders--USA

Exploratorium

IEEE-USA

Museum of Science, Boston

National Association of Biology Teachers

National Center for Technological Literacy

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

National Education Association

National Science Teachers Association

Project Lead the Way

SAE International

Society of Women Engineers

The National Education Knowledge Industry Association (NEKIA)

The New England Council

Triangle Coalition