

STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

November 9, 2007

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and
Science
Senate Committee on Appropriations
502 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and
Science
Senate Committee on Appropriations
110 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and
Science
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Capitol, H-310
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and
Science
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Capitol, H-310
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairman Mollohan, and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition urges you to provide the highest possible funding levels for STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation as Congress prepares to finish its work on appropriations for Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science (CJS), and Related Agencies.

Our 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 mission is to raise awareness in Congress, the Administration, and other organizations about the critical role that STEM education plays in enabling the United States 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.

We ask that you support these specific STEM education-related provisions in the FY2008 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill:

- The Senate-adopted funding of \$850.6 million for the National Science Foundation Education and Human Resources Directorate.
- The Senate-adopted funding of \$75 million for the NSF Math and Science Partnership Program
- The House-adopted funding of \$46 million for the NSF Robert Noyce Scholarship

The passage of the overwhelming bi-partisan and broadly supported American COMPETES Act this summer established that NSF's education programs have a significant and essential role to play in strengthening the STEM education pipeline and ensuring our nation's economic competitiveness. As you prepare to enter the Conference process for the CJS Appropriations bill, we urge you to support strong investments in the NSF's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate and its efforts to foster improvements in K-12, undergraduate, graduate, continuing ed, vocational, and informal STEM education.

If we can provide you with any additional information please contact James Brown at 202- 872-6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703-312-9214.

Sincerely,

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of University Women
American Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Society of Civil Engineers
AIAA-American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Association for Computing Machinery
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America
Computing Research Association
Council on Undergraduate Research
Education Development Center, Inc.
Exploratorium
Geological Society of America
Girls, Inc
Institute of Food Technologists.
International Technology Education Association
Knowledge Alliance
Museum of Science – Boston
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
The Ohio Academy of Science
Ohio Technology Education Association
Project Lead the Way
SAE International
STEMES
Triangle Coalition