



April 13, 2015

Chairman Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member Patty Murray
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

Together, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) represent 135,000 mathematics and science teachers, supervisors, administrators, college and university faculty, mathematicians, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in and committed to mathematics and science education. **As the two groups most affected by the Every Child Succeeds Act's proposed elimination of the Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSPs), we're writing to express our disappointment that the bipartisan proposal does not continue the ongoing and targeted support that mathematics and science educators desperately need to effectively teach the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators and prepare all students to be scientifically literate citizens.** Mathematics and science are crucial to the success of students nationwide, as well as to the future of the country's economy. It is similarly crucial that federal K-12 education policy match the rhetoric around the importance of these subjects and supporting the educators who teach them. **We urge you to consider amending the proposal to explicitly support the teaching and learning of mathematics and science.**

At a time when global competition for jobs is increasing, when STEM literacy is essential in almost every academic and professional endeavor, and when U.S. students continue to struggle to compete with their international peers, MSPs provide valuable resources in stimulating student interest and knowledge in mathematics and science. In fact, in some states, the funds received via this program are the only federal funds dedicated to teaching and learning K-12 mathematics and science. The elimination of this program is short-sighted.

Thank you for your work on reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure that revisions to federal K-12 education policy reflect the importance of supporting mathematics and science educators.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,



Diane J. Briars
President
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics



Robert M. Doucette
Executive Director
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics



Juliana Texley
President
National Science Teachers Association



David Evans
Executive Director
National Science Teachers Association

cc: Members of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions