



April 17, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education and Related Agencies

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education and Related Agencies

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable José Serrano
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies

Dear Appropriations Leaders:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your leadership in enacting the FY2019 budget. The increased funding for programs that support STEM education, especially those that are administered by the Department of Education and National Science Foundation, is an encouraging trend.

We are particularly encouraged by the increase in programs authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which will allow for vital teacher training, much-needed afterschool programs, and increased career and technical education programs in our K-12 schools. The continued support for the ESSA Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program is especially encouraging since it will give states and districts the additional resources to pursue STEM programs which will prepare our next generation of innovators, thinkers, and STEM-literate citizens.

As attention now turns to the next budget, we ask that the Committee provide full funding (\$1.6 billion) for the ESSA Title IV-A grant in FY2020. With this grant states and districts have the flexibility to provide well-rounded education programs, including Computer Science and STEM, to our most at-risk students. They will have access to new, high-quality STEM courses and resources, critical STEM opportunities both inside and outside the classroom for activities like STEM competitions, hands-on and

field-based learning opportunities, increased access to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs, and more computer science courses.

We appreciate the Committee's continued support for ESSA Title II Supporting Effective Instruction Grants, for which we request at least level funding, however we would prefer to see increased funding levels continue for ESSA Title II Supporting Effective Instruction Grants and ESSA Title IV/B, 21st Century Community Learning Centers. These grants allow for teacher training and class-size reduction efforts and fund high-quality STEM programming in afterschool and summer learning programs.

Increased funding for Career and Technical Education State Grants will allow educators to provide more STEM-focused strategies in apprenticeships, work-based learning and dual-enrollment credits as state and local CTE providers begin implementing the updated Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, which allows for more allowable uses of funding for STEM education activities.

Additionally, as the Committee begins deliberations on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Legislation, we respectfully request that the National Science Foundation (NSF) receive at least \$9 billion in FY 2020 funding, including a robust appropriation for the National Science Foundation's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate. The EHR directorate plays a critical role in expanding the STEM education knowledge base for broadened participation, graduate and undergraduate innovation and fellowships, enabling a skilled technical workforce, informal and afterschool education, and student experiences in STEM careers.

Finally, we urge Congress to enact a bipartisan budget agreement that increases discretionary spending caps to support these key investments in STEM education programs. Strong and sustainable funding for STEM education is critical to support our nation's economic growth, national security, and overall global competitiveness, and the reemergence of the spending caps in FY2020 would have a detrimental effect to this purpose.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views and we look forward to working with you and your staff closely during this appropriations process.

Sincerely,

STEM Education Coalition
Afterschool Alliance
American Chemical Society
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society for Landscape Architects
AnitaB.org
Aviation Technician Education Council
Campaign for Environmental Literacy
Education Development Center
FIRST
Hands on Science Partnership
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Science Teachers Association
Security Industry Association

National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
American Modeling Teachers Association
Discovery World
Technology Student Association
Museum of Science, Boston
Flinn Scientific
National Math and Science Initiative
ASME
CompTIA
Wayne State University
Exploratorium
American Council of Engineering Companies
Vernier Software and Technology
National Girls Collaborative
Science Coach
Eli Whitney Museum
Saving Our Sons & Sisters International
The AIMS Center for Math and Science Education
Helping Others Foundation
100Kin10
Eisco Scientific
Bridgeway Technology Inc.
EP STEM
Ethnos Research Incorporated
Teaching Garage
TreasureBeam, Inc.
Carrot Group
Jam Marketing Partners
Koch Communications
Aldon Corporation
Hillsborough County School District
South Carolina Coalition for Mathematics and Science
Upward Bound St. Lucie Co.
East Avenue Elementary
Yorktown Community Schools
North Carolina Eastern Alliance Foundation
Monterey County Office of Education
Reach Cyber Charter School
Norman County West Elementary
Cordova High School