

April 17, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
711 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
731 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Specter and Ranking Member Harkin:

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition urges you to provide at least \$562.2 million in fiscal year 2007 toward improving math and science education programs at the U.S. Department of Education (DoEd).

This level of funding is the total amount requested by the Administration for math and science education programs under the American Competitiveness Initiative and the existing Math and Science Partnership program. Our Coalition recognizes that significant portions of the American Competitiveness Initiative will require careful consideration by the Congress before being incorporated into authorizing legislation. However, we respectfully request that your Subcommittee fund math and science education programs at the DoEd at the Administration's requested level of at least \$562.2 million in fiscal year 2007.

We applaud the President's emphasis on math and science education and his call for more funding in these areas. We appreciate your leadership and support for math and science education in previous years, especially in these tight budgetary times. Increased funding for math and science education programs at the U.S. Department of Education, including the Math and Science Partnership program, will allow the states to continue research-based reform initiatives that enhance teacher content knowledge and increase student achievement in these areas. These innovative programs need to be expanded so that states can continue to identify and address key STEM education issues of local concern.

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

While we recognize that these are tight budgetary times, a strong consensus is emerging in the business, education, and scientific communities that our nation's future competitiveness in the global marketplace is directly tied to the ability of our schools to prepare children for the technological economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our organizations are pleased to be joining the chorus of policymakers, business leaders, educators, scientists, and Administration officials in calling for efforts to improve STEM education.

Thank you for your attention to our request. If we can provide you with any additional information or assistance, please contact James Brown at 202-872-6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703-312-9214.

*AeA*

*American Association of Physicists in Medicine*

*American Association of Physics Teachers*

*American Chemical Society*

*American Geological Institute*

*American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics*

*American Institute of Physics*

*American Society of Civil Engineers*

*ASME Center for Public Awareness*

*Association of Science-Technology Centers*

*ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America,*

*Engineers Without Borders--USA*

*Exploratorium*

*IEEE-USA*

*Institute of Food Technologists*

*International Technology Education Association*

*JETS*

*Johns Hopkins University*

*Museum of Science, Boston*

*National Association of Biology Teachers*

*National Center for Technological Literacy*

*National Council of Teachers of Mathematics*

*National Education Knowledge Industry Association*

*National Science Teachers Association*

*Optical Society of America*

*Project Lead the Way*

*Science Companion*

*Society of Women Engineers*

*SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering*

*STEMES*

*TERC*

*The New England Council*

*Triangle Coalition*