

November 16, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chair  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and  
Pensions  
United States Senate

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education & the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives

Ranking Member Patty Murray  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and  
Pensions  
United States Senate

Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Committee on Education & the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Kline, and Ranking Member Scott:

As you and your staff work to reach agreement on the legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), we urge you to include a provision of the Every Child Achieves Act (S. 1177, Title II.E) that would provide targeted funding to each state for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related activities.

In recent weeks, more than 50 members of the House and Senate from both parties have also written to you in united support of making STEM education a priority within the final legislation agreement and have similarly urged the inclusion of Title II.E in the conference agreement.

This key STEM education provision would provide formula grants to the states, which then administer grants to partnerships between schools, businesses, non-profits and institutions of higher education. These state-based partners would have broad discretion under the language of the provision to decide how to best use resources to improve teaching and learning in STEM subjects. Funding would support a wide range of STEM-focused objectives including recruitment, retention, and professional development of educators. Additionally, the provision would expand learning both in and outside the classroom, support STEM-related competitions and other forms of hands-on-learning, and improve student academic achievement in the STEM areas for underserved groups.

Title II.E is not a new program. Instead, it improves upon the existing Math and Science Partnership program at the Department of Education, which has a demonstrably positive impact on nearly 2.4 million students and thousands of educators every year. The STEM funding provision is also not duplicative of STEM programs at other federal agencies. The Title II.E provision would be the only education program – at the Department of Education or any other federal agency – providing direct formula-based funding to every state for the exclusive purpose of supporting STEM-related learning.

Federal investments in STEM education are critical in helping states to prepare our students for the challenges of today's increasingly competitive world. If we are going to empower our students to compete in the global economy we must maintain a strong federal commitment to improve teaching and learning in the critical STEM fields. It is both appropriate and essential for the nation's most prominent education law to establish STEM education as a critical priority.

We wish you good fortune in navigating this bill through its final stages and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to make the legislation successful.

Respectfully,

STEM Education Coalition  
Microsoft  
American Chemical Society  
Battelle  
Education Development Center  
Hands on Science Partnership  
American Society for Engineering Education  
Aviation Repair Station Association  
Aviation Technician Education Council  
Campaign for Environmental Literacy  
Afterschool Alliance  
American Statistical Association  
National Science Teachers Association  
Society of Women Engineers  
IEEE-USA  
Ithaca College  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
*FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology)  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Astronomical Society  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Society for Microbiology  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Association for Computing Machinery Education Policy Committee  
Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC)  
Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation  
Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber  
Charlottesville Business Innovation Council (CBIC)  
Cherry Creek School District  
Chicago Educational Publishing Company, LLC  
Code.org  
Computing Research Association  
ConnectSafely  
Creative Learning Systems  
C-STEM  
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26, Chesapeake, Virginia  
Dycet Research Group  
EAST Initiative

Engineers Without Borders-USA  
Exploratorium  
Funutation Tech Camps Inc  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University  
In Reach, Inc.  
Indoor Farms of America  
LearnOnLine, Inc  
Maryland Academy of Science at the Maryland Science Center  
Michigan State University  
Museum of Science, Boston  
National Alliance for Partnerships on Equity (NAPE)  
National Center for Technological Literacy  
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Girls Collaborative Project  
National Institute of Building Sciences  
National Wildlife Federation  
North American Association for Environmental Education  
North Marion School District  
NY Sun Works  
PORCH Society Foundation  
Rhode Island STEM Center @Rhode Island College  
Royal Welding & Fabricating  
SparkFun Electronics  
Start Engineering  
STEM For Kids, LLC  
STEM for Women Magazine, Inc.  
STEM Magazine Inc.  
STEMx  
Teach for America  
Washington State University  
Washington STEM