



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

October 18, 2011

The Honorable Al Franken
U.S. Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your continuing work in supporting educators in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Your STEM Master Teacher Corps Amendment addresses issues important to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and its 100,000 members. NCTM supports the amendment and looks forward to working with you and your colleagues as broader changes to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are considered and as reauthorization proceeds.

Recruiting and retaining effective math teachers is critical to improving mathematics teaching and learning in the country. President Obama has proposed recruiting and training 100,000 new STEM teachers in the next decade and requested \$100 million to advance that goal. One of the reasons many teachers leave the profession within their first few years of teaching is that they are lured away by the lucrative salaries of other STEM professions. Career advancement opportunities for effective math teachers in the country's classrooms and support for those just beginning their careers could increase retention rates and better leverage investments in recruitment and professional development. Your amendment sets forth a means to address these issues, including higher pay for corps members who take on additional responsibilities. Also importantly, it also focuses on high-need and rural schools.

A strong pre-K–12 mathematics education for all students is increasingly important to our nation's economic stability, future national security, and workforce productivity. An economically competitive society recognizes the importance of mathematics learning and depends on citizens who are mathematically literate. NCTM believes that teachers and what they do in the classroom are at the heart of making this vision a reality.



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Again, thank you for the time and effort you and your staff have invested in developing the STEM Master Teacher Corps Amendment. As this process moves forward, if we can provide you with any additional information please contact NCTM Associate Executive Director for Communications Ken Krehbiel at 703-620-9840, ext.2102 or Ellin Nolan at 202-289-3900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Michael Shaughnessy".

J. Michael Shaughnessy
President