

September 5, 2008

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Howard “Buck” McKeon
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Enzi
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Miller and Kennedy and Ranking Members McKeon and Enzi:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your outstanding leadership in producing bipartisan and broadly supported legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act.

We are very pleased that the Higher Education Opportunity Act clearly recognizes the vital role that strong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs play in ensuring our nation’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Throughout our nation’s history, American economic and technological strength has been built upon a large and highly skilled domestic workforce of scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians – the STEM workforce. The overwhelming bipartisan vote to approve the Higher Education Opportunity Act demonstrates that Congress understands this reality. We appreciate that this legislation will improve STEM teacher professional development, provide meaningful incentives to encourage students to obtain STEM degrees and pursue STEM-related careers, and expand efforts to encourage diversity in the STEM workforce by increasing the participation of underrepresented groups.

The STEM Education Coalition is composed of a diverse range of groups who have come together to work 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 21st 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.

We look forward to sharing information with our groups about the Higher Education Opportunity Act and assisting your offices in any way we can to ensure its success. If we can provide you any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact James Brown at 202-872-6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703-312-9214.

Sincerely

Academy of Science-St. Louis

AIAA

Allegheny-Singer Research Institute

Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies, Inc.

American Chemical Society

American Council of Engineering Companies

American Geological Institute

American Society of Civil Engineers

American Society for Engineering Education

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc.

American Statistical Association

ASME Center for Public Awareness

Association for Science Teacher Education

Association of Science-Technology Centers

Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce

Buhach Colony Engineering Academy

Campaign for Environmental Literacy

Center for Minority Achievement in Science and Technology

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

COMETS (Career Oriented Math, Engineering, Technology and Science) Initiative

Computing Research Association

CT Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science & Technology

Council on Undergraduate Research

Design Science

EAST Initiative

Ecological Society of America

Education Development Center, Inc.

Engineers Without Borders-USA

Exploratorium

Hands On Science Partnership

IEEE-USA

Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)

ITEA

Knowledge Alliance

Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance

Maryland Science Center

Museum of Science, Boston

National Center for Simulation

National Center for Technological Literacy

National Center for Optics and Photonics Education (OP-TEC)

National Center for Women & Information Technology

National Council for Advanced Manufacturing

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

National Girls Collaborative Project

National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
National Venture Capital Association
Optical Society of America
Project Lead the Way
Science Companion
Siemens Foundation
Skillpoint Alliance
Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)
Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES)
Society of Women Engineers
STEM Administrators Association
STEMES
Tiffin Columbian High School
Triangle Coalition
Urban STEM Strategy Group
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Vernier Software & Technology