

STEM Education Coalition



November 16, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we encourage you and your colleagues in the Senate to make the bipartisan passage of the America COMPETES Act reauthorization (S. 3605) a high priority when the Senate returns after the Fall elections.

The passage of the original legislation demonstrated to the entire world that U.S. leaders can work together effectively to strengthen the foundations of American innovation. If this landmark bill is allowed to expire, it will represent a serious step backwards for the broad consensus that has evolved around the importance of robust investments in science and technology research and STEM education to our nation's future.

Today, America's economic and technological strength is built upon a large and highly-skilled domestic workforce of scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians – the STEM workforce. Our Coalition works to strengthen the STEM pipeline by vigorously supporting the educational mission of the National Science Foundation and advocating for a strong STEM focus at other federal agencies. We are very pleased that both the original *America COMPETES Act* and the proposed reauthorization bills developed by both the House and Senate will do a great deal to further both of these goals. We also greatly appreciate this crucial legislation's focus on increasing the diversity of the STEM workforce by directing resources to high-need schools and populations.

We strongly urge you to take this bill up before the end of the current Congress.

Respectfully,

Aerospace Industries Association
Afterschool Alliance
Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Chemical Society
American Council of Engineering Companies

American Geological Institute
American Geophysical Union
American Helicopter Museum and Education Center
American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS)
American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges
American Museum of Natural History
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Statistical Association
ASME Center for Public Awareness
ASPIRA Inc. of Illinois
Association for Women in Science (AWIS)
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce
Battelle
Biophysical Society
Biotechnology Institute
Business-Higher Education Forum
Center for Excellence in Education (CEE)
Colorado Technical University
Council on Undergraduate Research
Crop Science Society of America
Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education
Dept of Science, Math & Technology Education, CSU San Bernardino
EAST Initiative
Engineers Without Borders-USA
Entertainment Industries Council, Inc
Funutation Tekademy
HMC Architects
IEEE-USA
Indiana University
Institute for P-12 Engineering Research and Learning, INSPIRE – Purdue University
International Society for Technology in Education
International Technology and Engineering Educators Association
Invent for Life, Inc
Iowa Math & Science Education Partnership
JETS
LearnOnLine, Inc
Maryland Academy of Sciences at the Maryland Science Center
Maryland MESA/Johns Hopkins Univ Applied Physics Lab
Michigan After-School Partnership
Museum Institute for Teaching Science
Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago

Museum of Science, Boston
National Center for Technological Literacy
NASA STEM School Administrators Association
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Center for Women & Information Technology
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Girls Collaborative Project
National Institute of Building Sciences
National Science and Technology Education Partnership
National Science Center
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
New York Hall of Science
Ohio Technology and Engineering Educators Association
Ohio Technology Education Advisory Council
Partnership Magnet Charter School
PBS
Project Exploration
SACNAS
SAE International
Small Elementary School, South Portland, Me.
Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
Society of Women Engineers
Soil Science Society of America
South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics & Science
STEMES
Technology Student Association
The Optical Society
The STEM Academy
The STEM Center at UC Denver
Urban STEM Strategy Group
Vernier Software & Technology
Water Environment Federation
WGBH
Wings of Eagles Discovery Center