

May 20, 2010

The Honorable Kay Hagan
521 Dirksen
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Hagan,

We write as constituents and leaders in the statistical community to ask you to promote greater statistical literacy for this and future generations of American students. As you know from your championing of financial literacy, students have much to gain from a better grasp of quantitative reasoning and aptitude. Statistical literacy, in particular, is important because of our society's growing dependence on data and the accompanying importance of reasoning under uncertainty. Media sources confront us with statistical information on topics such as the economy, education, food, medicine, climate change, security, public opinion, entertainment, and social behavior.

Statistical literacy skills—including data analysis strategies, critical thinking, and other related concepts—help guide our decisions and enable us to meet our responsibilities as citizens. As such, they are essential parts of STEM education. We enclose a document further discussing statistical literacy.

We would welcome a discussion with you or your staff about how we can work together to promote statistical literacy, particularly with the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Excellence in mathematics education that includes statistical literacy is vital to our nation's economic prosperity, global competitiveness, and homeland security in the 21st century. We hope you are willing to ensure that future generations of America's work force have the statistical literacy they need to succeed.

Thank you for your consideration.

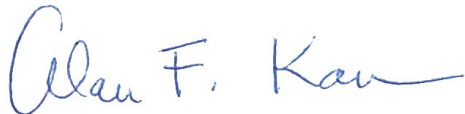
Sincerely,



James O. Berger, PhD
Director, Statistical and Applied Mathematical
Sciences Institute*, Research Triangle Park



Sally C. Morton, PhD
2009 President, American Statistical Association
Vice President for Statistics and Epidemiology,
RTI International*, Research Triangle Park



Alan F. Karr, PhD
Director, National Institute of Statistical
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Sastry G. Pantula, PhD
2010 President, American Statistical Association
Chair, Department of Statistics, North Carolina
State University*, Raleigh

*Institutions are for identification purposes only; their listing does not indicate the institution's support of this letter.

May 20, 2010

The Honorable Richard Burr
217 Russell
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Burr,

We write as constituents and leaders in the statistical community to ask you to promote greater statistical literacy for this and future generations of American students. As you know from your work to ensure a robust economic environment and strong public schools, a work force well trained in science and mathematics is fundamental to job growth in the 21st century. Statistical literacy, in particular, is important because of our society's growing dependence on data and the accompanying importance of reasoning under uncertainty. Media sources confront us with statistical information on topics such as the economy, education, food, medicine, climate change, security, public opinion, entertainment, and social behavior.

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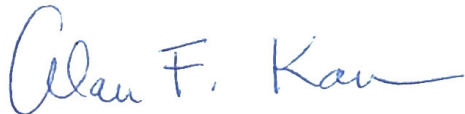
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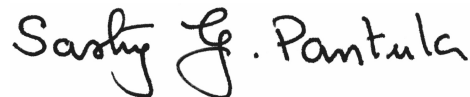
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