

STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington DC 20515-6501

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

CC: Senators Kennedy, Enzi, Alexander, Mikulski, Kaufman
Representatives Miller, McKeon, McCarthy, Platts

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Reid, McConnell, and Boehner:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we commend you for your leadership in the development and passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (H.R. 1388). Our Coalition is pleased that H.R. 1388, which enjoyed broad and bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, recognized the importance of STEM education by encouraging STEM professionals to serve through a variety of national service programs.

As you know, our Coalition is composed of a diverse range of organizations from all sectors of the workforce, including knowledge workers, researchers, educators, teacher educators, scientists, engineers, technicians, and representatives from the business community. We believe that excellence in STEM education at all levels, among all populations, is vital to our nation's short- and long-term economic prosperity, global competitiveness and security.

The Serve America Act, fittingly named after Senator Edward M. Kennedy, provides numerous opportunities through the National Senior Service Corps for experienced STEM professionals to assist teachers in classroom demonstrations or laboratory experiences, run after-school programs, and provide field trips to businesses and universities. The bill also authorizes innovative programs to integrate service-learning into the STEM curricula and emphasizes the important role of mentoring in encouraging youth to study the STEM fields, or at least stay in school and on a path to a higher education. Our Coalition truly appreciates the broad interest expressed by so many members of the House and Senate in strengthening the STEM-related provisions of this important legislation.

We look forward to sharing information with our members about the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and assisting your offices in any way we can to ensure its success. If we can provide 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,

Allegheny-Singer Research Institute
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of University Women
American Chemical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
American Statistical Association
ASME Center for Public Awareness.
Association of Science Materials Centers
ASTRA
Biological Sciences Curriculum Study
Business-Higher Education Forum
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chicago Educational Publishing
Coalition for STEM in Massachusetts
Council on Undergraduate Research
EAST Initiative
Education Development Center, Inc
Engineers Without Borders
Hamilton County/Chattanooga Coalition for Mathematics and Sciences Excellence
In Reach, Inc.
International Technology Education Association
JETS
Math for America
Museum of Science
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Commission on Teaching and America's Future
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Girls Collaborative Project
National Science Education Leadership Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
Ohio Technology Education Association
Pathways into Science
Project Lead the Way
PTC
PTC-MIT Consortium
SAE International
Second Chance Technology Edge
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Inc.
Society of Women Engineers
SPIE- The International Society for Optics and Photonics
STEMES
Technology Student Association
The Campaign for Environmental Literacy
The Evergreen Project, Inc
The Institute of Food Technologists
Triangle Coalition
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Urban STEM Strategy Group
Vernier Software & Technology