



March XX , 2013

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Appropriations Committee Leaders:

As the Congress proceeds with setting federal spending priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, the STEM Education Coalition offers you its views and recommendations on the Administration's budget proposals related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs.

In today's economy every student needs to have a strong foundation in the STEM subjects in order to land and succeed in virtually any job – from the shop floor to the research lab to the boardroom. Further, the best, most highly paying jobs are nearly all in the STEM fields. If we are going to enable our students to compete in the global economy we must maintain a strong federal commitment to improve teaching and learning in the STEM fields.

Our recommendations on the FY 2017 Budget proposal:

- We support the proposal of \$2.250 billion for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title II Supporting Effective Instruction State grants program at the Department of Education (DoEd). This program provides support for teacher quality improvement initiatives, including professional development and teacher leadership, and provides states with flexibility in addressing STEM-specific challenges in this area.
- We support full funding of the ESSA Title IV Student Support and Academic Enhancement Grants at the DoEd at the authorized level of \$1.65 billion. The new initiative, would support state-led efforts to promote hands on STEM learning, STEM specialty schools, integration of informal and formal STEM programs, and support improvement in computer science instruction. We are very disappointed the Administration proposed only \$500 million for this program, which was a central focus of the ESSA and recommend Congress establish the program as authorized.
- We support the proposal of \$100 million for the new Computer Science for All Development Grants at the DoEd. Too few American schools are teaching computer science and the Administration's Computer Science for All initiative is an ambitious effort to promote equity and expanded learning opportunities in this critical area.

- We support the proposal of \$10 million for a STEM Master Teacher Corps at the DoEd, which was authorized through Section 2245 of ESSA. This program would help cultivate teacher leaders in STEM subjects and promote the sharing of best practices across the teaching professions.
- We support the proposal of \$952.86 million for the National Science Foundation's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate. This funding supports discovery and innovation at the frontiers of STEM learning and teaching, supports the testing, assessment, study and evaluation of highly innovative models and approaches to learning, and fosters linkages between STEM education research and practice that improve the effectiveness of programs across the federal government and at the state level.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views with you and look forward to working with you closely during the Appropriations process.

Respectfully,

STEM Education Coalition
American Chemical Society
Campaign for Environmental Literacy
National Science Teachers Association
Hands on Science Partnership
Education Development Center
American Society for Engineering Education
National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools