

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2008

Join us in supporting our gifted & talented students!
Support funding for the Javits Gifted & Talented Program

Dear Colleague:

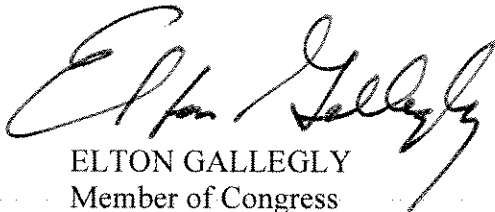
We ask you to join us in signing a letter to the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee asking them to restore funding for the Javits Gifted and Talented program to the FY02 level of \$11.25 million.

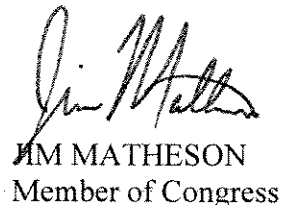
The Javits Gifted and Talented program is the only federally funded program aimed at helping our nation's gifted students. However, the program has been underfunded in recent years and has not been able to fulfill its most important mission: awarding competitive grants to state educational agencies that make sub-grants to local educational agencies for the development or expansion of gifted and talented educational programs. As a result, in 2007 less than 3 cents out of every \$100 of the federal K-12 education budget was devoted to meeting the needs of the nation's gifted and talented students.

This funding will help ensure that all gifted and talented students have access to the services they need to realize their full potential. Without federal support, only those highly capable students in wealthy school districts have access to the kind of education that prepares them to perform the innovative and creative work necessary to secure our nation's position in the world.

Please support Javits funding by signing the attached letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee. **The deadline to sign is C.O.B. March 12, 2008.** If you have any questions or wish to sign this letter please contact Kenneth Steinhardt in Mr. Gallegly's office at 5-5811 or Shana Sexton in Mr. Matheson's office at 5-3011.

Sincerely,


ELTON GALLEGLY
Member of Congress


JIM MATHESON
Member of Congress

Reminder, this is a program-level request: You do not need to file a disclosure form, but we do request that you please indicate your support in the Appropriations Committee's online database. For your reference, the Javits Gifted & Talented Program is funded under the "School Improvement" account at the U.S. Department of Education.

March XX, 2008

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

As your Subcommittee prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Education, we urge you to restore funding for the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education program to the FY 2002 level of \$11.25 million.

This increase in funding is necessary for the Javits program to be able to foster the development of gifted and talented education programs at the local level across the country. In 2007, less than 3 cents out of every \$100 of the federal K-12 education budget was devoted to meeting the needs of the nation's gifted and talented students. This level is unacceptable.

The Javits Gifted and Talented program is the only federally funded program aimed at helping our nation's gifted students. The Javits program provides a forum for educators, policymakers and experts to conduct research on appropriate methods for teaching these students. Additionally, the Javits program will potentially award grants on a competitive basis to state and local educational agencies to develop or expand gifted and talented educational programs. However last year's funding level of \$7.5 million did not allow for federal money to be available for these state competitive grants.

Recently, Congress has demonstrated a lack of commitment to gifted and talented education, forcing the Javits program to endure funding cuts since 2002. Congress must work toward the goal of seeing gifted and talented programs take root in schools districts across the country so our nation's best and brightest students are able to realize their full potential. We request that funding for this program be restored to \$11.25 million in the FY 2009 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill. This increase will provide the Javits program the resources to award state competitive grants, allowing our nation's schools to develop or expand their gifted and talented education programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,