



Triangle  
Coalition  
for  
Science  
and  
Technology  
Education

October 13, 2011

The Honorable Michael Honda  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1713 Longworth House Office Building  
District of Columbia 20515-0515

Dear Congressman Honda:

On behalf of Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education I wish to express our strong support for the *Enhancing Science Technology Engineering and Math (E-STEM) Education Act of 2011* which works to address the critical challenge of improving STEM education. As an organization that has spent more than 25 years working on STEM education issues we are proud to partner with you in your efforts.

We commend you on the way in which your proposed legislation builds off both the America COMPETES Act and the recommendations of OSTP's PCAST report to put in place realistic programs to facilitate federal coordination, collaboration, and perhaps most importantly, coherence in STEM education programs and initiatives.

We are pleased to see that the bill includes the creation of an Office of STEM Education at the U.S. Department of Education. This is something that Triangle Coalition has long been an advocate for, and believes will provide a much needed focus on the critical area of STEM education at a time when America most needs to improve the innovation pipeline as part of not only global competitiveness but as a critical component of long range job creation, recognizing that the jobs of tomorrow will rely on the innovators of today.

In addition, the inclusion of a National Advisory Committee on STEM Education under PCAST at OSTP works to raise the coherence level of STEM programming across the federal agencies. The inclusion of STEM teachers within the makeup of the panel is a critical step in insuring that the voice of the practitioner is part of the policy dialogue as we move to improve not only student achievement in these critical subjects, but also the professional strength of educators in these high need areas of the education landscape.

The future of our country's economic competitiveness depends greatly on our how well our students perform in STEM fields. The Commerce Department study released this past summer highlights the fact that growth in STEM jobs grew three times faster over the past 10 years than non-STEM jobs. In short, if we are to keep up with our global competitors, we must step up our investments in STEM education. The E-STEM Bill directly addresses critical shortfalls in the current system with practical solutions to facilitate improved communication and focus resources on best practice.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vance R. Ablott", written over a horizontal line.

Vance R. Ablott  
Executive Director

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