

October 11, 2007

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon:

As leaders in the science, technology, education, and business communities, we appreciate the Committee's efforts through the Miller-McKeon discussion draft to address a range of issues that will have an impact on our national competitiveness and on student achievement in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) fields. However, we are writing to strongly urge you to make science a required component of the adequate yearly progress (AYP) measure under Title I of the No Child Left behind Act.

The most recent 10-year employment projections by the U.S. Labor Department show that of the 20 fastest growing occupations projected for 2014, 15 of them require significant mathematics and science preparation. America's global competitiveness will increasingly depend on our ability to better educate our young people in the sciences, yet when compared with our international competitors, we are not performing well in science achievement.

While we appreciate that the discussion draft included science proficiency as one of multiple measures of student achievement that schools can choose to be evaluated upon, we continue to believe that science should be included alongside math and reading as a required component of the AYP measure. Science is a core subject that all students should be learning and for which all schools should be held accountable. We would strongly urge a change to the Title I draft to include science as a required component of AYP. Further, if science is included in AYP, science tests would not have to be conducted annually, but could continue to be administered once in each grade band, as determined by the state.

We look forward to working together with you to advance the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Acoustical Society of America*  
*ADC Telecommunications and the ADC Foundation*  
*American Association of Physics Teachers*  
*American Association of Physicists in Medicine*  
*American Association of University Women*  
*American Chemical Society*  
*American Geological Institute*  
*American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics - AIAA*  
*American Institute of Physics*  
*American Physical Society*  
*American Society of Agronomy*  
*American Society of Civil Engineers*  
*American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers*  
*Association of Science-Technology Centers*  
*ASME Center for Public Awareness*  
*Association for Computing Machinery*  
*ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America*  
*BSCS—Biological Sciences Curriculum Study*  
*Business Roundtable*  
*Business Coalition for Student Achievement*  
*Business Higher Education Forum*  
*Council of State Science Supervisors*  
*Crop Science Society of America*  
*EAST Initiative*  
*Education Development Center, Inc.*  
*Emergent Design and Development*  
*Engineers Without Borders-USA*  
*Exploratorium*  
*General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation*  
*Hands-On Science Partnership*  
*Houghton Mifflin*  
*IEEE-USA*  
*Institute of Food Technologists*  
*International Technology Education Association*  
*Knowledge Alliance*  
*Materials Research Society*  
*MITS, Inc.*  
*Museum Institute for Teaching Science*  
*Museum of Science, Boston*  
*National Association of Biology Teachers*  
*National Association of Manufacturers*  
*National Center for Technological Literacy*  
*National Council of Teachers of Mathematics*  
*National Science Teachers Association*

*National Society of Professional Engineers*  
*Ohio Academy of Science*  
*Ohio Invents Project*  
*Ohio Technology Education Association*  
*Optical Society of America*  
*Project Lead the Way*  
*SAE International Inc.*  
*Science Companion*  
*Science Olympiad*  
*Society of Women Engineers*  
*Soil Science Society of America*  
*South Carolina Coalition for Mathematics and Science*  
*STEMES*  
*Teachers Clearinghouse for Science and Society Education*  
*Technology Education Association of Pennsylvania*  
*Triangle Coalition*  
*U.S. Chamber of Commerce*