Support for Math and Science Partnerships

March 7, 2005

Dear Colleague:

I ask you to join me in writing the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education to ask for increased funding for the Math and Science Partnerships program at the Department of Education.

Science and mathematics competency is increasingly essential to this country, for the growing demands of the global economy, but also for national security and the defense of our homeland. The Math and Science Partnerships program provides grants to states for funding innovative partnerships to strengthen math and science instruction and to enhance math and science learning at the elementary and secondary levels. This program encourages partnerships between universities, local businesses and elementary and secondary schools in communities across the nation to develop strong math and science coursework to improve student achievement. Each state education agency is in charge of awarding competitive sub-grants to support these important partnerships at the local level.

When fiscal year appropriations exceed $100 million, funding is allocated by formula to each state. The program was funded in Fiscal Year 2005 at $178 million, providing a modest but critical funding stream to encourage and support partnership. President Bush has recognized the value of math and science education and is requesting a total of $269 million for math and science programs in his FY 2006 budget proposal. I am asking that at least $269 million be provided for the Math and Science Partnerships program.

I hope you will join me in supporting increased funding for these critically important partnerships. If you have any questions or would like to sign the letter, please contact Jennifer Swenson at 224-3217. The deadline for signatures is Friday, March 18.

Sincerely,

Pat Roberts
The Honorable Arlen Specter, Chair  
The Honorable Tom Harkin, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510  

March XX, 2005  

Dear Chairman Specter and Senator Harkin:

As you begin work on the education section of the Fiscal Year 2006 appropriations bill for Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, we urge you to consider increased funding for the Math and Science Partnerships program.

Science and mathematics competency is increasingly essential to this country, for the growing demands of the global economy, but also for national security and the defense of our homeland. Last year, Congress responded to these needs by providing $178 million for math and science education. President Bush has also recognized the value of math and science education and is requesting a total of $269 million for math and science programs in his FY 2006 budget proposal. We are asking the Subcommittee to provide at least $269 million for the Math and Science Partnerships program.

The Math and Science Partnerships program provides grants to states for funding innovative partnerships to strengthen math and science instruction and to enhance math and science learning at the elementary and secondary levels. This program encourages partnerships between universities, local businesses and elementary and secondary schools in communities across the nation to develop more rigorous science and math curricula to ensure that all students meet state standards and the skill level expected for post-secondary study of math and science.

We are pleased that your Subcommittee has been able to provide the funding needed to ensure that every state receives the resources to design and implement Math and Science Partnerships. We have begun to see promising gains for children in mathematics. However, there is more to be done. We respectfully ask you to consider increased funding for this critically important program.

Math and science make up the backbone of our economy. Our nation’s technological and economic leadership depends on a citizenry that is proficient in these core disciplines. In a year of difficult funding decisions, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,