



March 26, 2004

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**Rep. Holt Introduces Knowledge Utilization in Education Act  
*Bill is Designed to Help Close the Achievement Gap  
& Provide Teachers with Research-Based Teaching Tools***

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) yesterday introduced the Knowledge Utilization in Education Act of 2004 (H.R. 4043), which is designed to increase the use of research-based knowledge to boost student performance and close the achievement gap.

“The National Education Knowledge Industry Association (NEKIA) thanks Rep. Holt for introducing this legislation,” said NEKIA President Jim Kohlmoos. “NEKIA is very proud to work with Rep. Holt and the bill’s co-sponsors. We will work tirelessly to support their efforts to advance this bill in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. These members of Congress clearly recognize that more must be done to ensure that research-based tools are used in America’s classrooms.”

The bill is cosponsored by Rep. George Miller (D-CA), the ranking minority member on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce; Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX); Rep. Barbara Cubin (R-WY); and Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA).

Kohlmoos said that while the recently enacted No Child Left Behind Act requires educators to use instructional practices based on scientifically valid research, such practices are rarely in place.

“Given that 25,000 public schools are not making adequate yearly progress, Congress must take steps to meet the demand for research-based instruction,” he said. “Studies show that student achievement increases when teachers use practices based on scientifically valid research.”

The bill, which was developed with support from NEKIA, would help schools by providing new resources so educators can link education knowledge to classroom practice. The legislation would also launch a national leadership initiative to bolster education knowledge. There are four key elements in the bill.

**1. Grants to promote knowledge utilization in education.** The grants could be used to:

- Help educators become more informed consumers of research-based knowledge utilization.
- Support the identification and dissemination of research-supported practices.
- Create incentives for states and districts to invest in knowledge utilization.
- Focus knowledge utilization efforts on high-need areas such as rural schools.
- Develop a corps of regionally based knowledge utilization coordinators that will work in schools to implement education practices supported by scientifically valid research.
- Target efforts to educators working with subgroups that need improvement to make AYP. These subgroups include students with limited English proficiency, students from low-income families, and children with special needs.
- Promote education entrepreneurship supported by research.

2. **A new National Leadership Office for Knowledge Utilization in Education**, which would be established in the U.S. Department of Education. The leadership office would promote policies that bring to scale educational practices based on scientifically valid research. The office would produce a biennial analysis for Congress on the state of education knowledge utilization.

3. **A Knowledge Utilization Partnership in Education** to advance knowledge utilization through a network of private and public organizations.

4. **An Interagency Task Force** to promote coordination among federal departments and agencies administering knowledge utilization programs.

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