

October 10, 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 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
Association of Educational Publishers
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
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 Technology Education Association
Optical Society of America
Project Lead the Way
SAE International Inc.
Science Companion

Science Olympiad
Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society
Society of Women Engineers
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