



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEKIA TESTIMONY FOR FY 2008 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS SCHEDULED**

*"In 2005, more than 24 thousand U.S. Public schools were designated as not making adequate yearly progress. Many more schools are in danger of failing and an escalating number of schools urgently need additional support. Investing in educational research today is key to improving schools and creating a brighter future for our children, and the nation."*

Jim Kohlmoos, NEKIA President

**Washington, DC:** The National Education Knowledge Industry Association (NEKIA) will be represented by NEKIA member Steve Fleischman in testimony scheduled for March 28, 2007 before the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies' Committee on Appropriations. The testimony will present NEKIA's recommendations for FY 2008 funding for a number of critical research-based school improvement programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

"The research community is uniquely positioned to provide invaluable assistance to states, districts and schools in their ongoing efforts to improve student achievement. In order for stakeholders to have the necessary tools to implement effective strategies, there must be increased investment in programs that support the school improvement infrastructure nationwide," said NEKIA President Jim Kohlmoos. "To that end, the NEKIA strongly urges increasing support for the Comprehensive Centers which provide intensive technical assistance to states for research-based school improvement, for the Regional Education Laboratories which provide high quality, scientifically valid research through applied research and development projects and for the National Research and Development Centers which focus on research topics of enduring national importance. NEKIA commends the President for proposing to significantly increase investments in School Improvement Grants," Kohlmoos said.

Mr. Fleischman's testimony will also include NEKIA's recommendation to support the following programs included in the President's FY 2008 request: Teacher Quality State Grants; 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers; Math Science Partnership; Reading First; Special Education Research; Statewide Data Systems; Striving Readers; and Title I formula grants. NEKIA also recommends that programs the President proposed to reduce or eliminate, such as Even Start, Parent Information Resource Centers, Smaller Learning

Communities, Education Technology grants and Comprehensive School Reform be reinstated; these programs contribute to research-based school improvement efforts.

“Funding for education research and development is currently far too low to match the demand for research-based school improvement solutions. In 2005, more than 24 thousand U.S. Public schools were designated as not making adequate yearly progress. Many more schools are in danger of failing and an escalating number of schools urgently need additional support. Investing in educational research today is key to improving schools and creating a brighter future for our children, and the nation, said Kohlmoos.”

Steve Fleischman, NEKIA member and Vice President, Education and Human Development for the American Institutes for Research, will represent the views of NEKIA’s leadership and Board of Directors to the Subcommittee. “It is now time to intensify the focus on creating, translating and applying research-based knowledge into useful tools to improve instructional practices in schools, especially those that are low-performing schools, or in danger of becoming low-performing. Research is key to improving education in the United States,” said Fleischman.

Founded in 1997 as a non-profit, non-partisan trade association (501c6), NEKIA is a strong and dynamic community of highly successful education organizations and agencies. The organization’s common cause is to actively promote and advocate for the expanded use of knowledge-based solutions in K-12 education. NEKIA is dedicated to developing new and better ways to support high-quality education research, dissemination, technical assistance and evaluation at the federal, regional, state, tribal and local levels.

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