

**K-12 SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING &
MATHEMATICS
EDUCATION
COALITION**

*Acoustical Society of America
AeA
American Association of Physics
Teachers
American Association of Physicists in
Medicine
American Astronomical Society
American Educational Research
Association
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Biological
Sciences
American Physical Society
American Physiological Society
American Society of Mechanical
Engineers
American Sociological Association
Battelle
Colorado Photonics Industry Association
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Georgia Council of Teachers of
Mathematics
Indiana University
Institute of Electrical & Electronics
Engineers - USA
International Technology Education
Association
Johns Hopkins University, Whiting
School of Engineering Center for
Educational Outreach
Junior Engineering Technical Society
Michigan State University
Museum of Science, Boston, and
National Center for Technological
Literacy
National Association of Biology
Teachers
National Council of Teachers of
Mathematics
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional
Engineers
National Technology Student
Association
Optical Society of America
Society for Research in Child
Development
Society of Women Engineers
Society of Automotive Engineers
Triangle Coalition
University of Washington*

September 10, 2004

The Honorable J. Hastert
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Via fax: (202) 225-0697

Dear Representative Hastert:

We are writing to express our deep concern with the House Appropriations Committee mark for the National Science Foundation (NSF), which cuts the total NSF budget by 2 percent and the Math & Science Partnerships (MSPs) within the Education and Human Resources Directorate by 40 percent. This amount of funding for the MSPs will only support existing grants and will not provide for any new competitions.

We urge you to continue the federal commitment to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education by increasing the appropriation for NSF to a level that will permit restoration of funds for the peer-reviewed MSPs to \$140 million, a level that is commensurate with FY 2004 funding.

The competitive, peer-reviewed, NSF MSPs seek to develop scientifically sound, model, reform initiatives that will improve teacher quality, develop challenging curricula, and increase student achievement in STEM education.

Currently, there are only 12 comprehensive MSP grants and another 23 smaller targeted grants. Efforts are underway to evaluate, extrapolate and extend the results via the www.MSPnet.org website. Given the state of math and science education, additional resources are necessary for K-12 STEM education research.

As we strive to enhance student achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, programs such as the NSF Math & Science Partnership grants are essential to the cause. Please support restorative funding for the NSF's Math & Science Partnership program.

If you have any questions, please contact Patti Curtis at 202.785.7385.