

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

Acoustical Society of America

AeA

*American Association of Engineering
Societies*

*American Association of Physics
Teachers*

American Astronomical Society

American Chemical Society

American Geological Institute

American Geophysical Union

American Institute of Physics

American Mathematical Society

American Physical Society

American Society of Civil Engineers

ASME

Ecological Society of America

IEEE-USA

*International Technology Education
Association*

Museum of Science, Boston

*National Council of Teachers of
Mathematics*

National Science Teachers Association

*National Society of Professional
Engineers*

Optical Society of America

SAE International

Society of Women Engineers

*Triangle Coalition for Science and
Technology Education*

*UMBC, College of Engineering and
Information Technology*

January 27, 2004

The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

VIA FAX: (202) 225-5144

Dear Representative Ehlers:

We want to thank you for working to secure \$149 million for the U.S. Department of Education Math & Science Partnership program, which is the sole source of dedicated funding for all states to improve K-12 math and science education. Your support for increased funding will provide continuity to existing partnerships and allow new partnerships to form. Each state will have greater resources to fund merit-based partnerships that improve teacher quality and student achievement in K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, particularly in high-need areas.

Improving the math and science skills of our students is essential to maintaining our technological leadership in our global economy. The need for a technologically literate population is essential for our economy and our national security.

Although there has been a steady improvement in the performance of America's students over the last ten years, a decreasing number of American students are pursuing college degrees in STEM fields. In spite of this progress, America's K-12 students still score below the best in the world on international tests.

The Math & Science Partnership program brings all stakeholders together to improve teacher quality and student achievement. We appreciate your leadership and support for this program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patti Curtis at 202.785.7385 or Heather Hill at 202.872.4467

NOTE: Of the \$149 million, Michigan will receive an estimated \$4,566,474 in funding for K-12 STEM education.