



August 29, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Patty Murray
Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee
Appropriations Committee
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), and our over 100,000 members, we are writing to remind you that math and science teachers nationwide rely on federal investments in learning opportunities for educators to become and remain effective educators. **You and your colleagues must adequately invest in the programs in the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill that are crucial to K-12 mathematics and science classroom teachers and teacher educators.** The Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program (Title II, Part A, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)), the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAEG) program (Title IV, Part A of ESSA), and the Teacher Quality Partnerships grants (Title II of the Higher Education Act) are imperative investments in the teachers and resources required to prepare today's students for success, particularly in science and mathematics, which are foundational subjects for the STEM disciplines that are crucial to the country's economy and national security.

NSTA, founded in 1944, is the largest organization in the world committed to promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. NSTA's current membership of 55,000 includes science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in and committed to science education. Founded in 1920, NCTM is the world's largest mathematics education organization, with 60,000 members and more than 230 Affiliates throughout the United States and Canada. Both organizations support and advocate for the highest-quality mathematics and science teaching and learning for each and every student. **Federal support for teacher preparation programs, professional development for classroom teachers, assistance for those studying mathematics and science education and the research and other public resources that foster the improved teaching and learning and of mathematics and science are invaluable to our members and the teaching workforce.**

Research has shown that the effectiveness of the teachers is the single most important school-based factor in student achievement. The FY 2018 White House budget request, and the FY 2018 spending proposal for the Department of Education approved by the US House of Representatives ignore this fact and undermine the successful implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act. You and your colleagues must reject the proposal from the White House and the House of Representatives to eliminate \$2.1 billion in funding for the Supporting Effective Instruction Grants and—at a minimum—

invest in the program at last year's level. Similarly, we urge you to increase investments in the SSAEG program which, as envisioned by the authors and bipartisan supporters of ESSA, has great promise if it is funded at a level much closer to its authorization of \$1.65 billion, and certainly significantly higher than the \$400 million it received in FY 2017. Further, as colleges and universities prepare teachers that will enter K-12 classrooms in coming years, the Teacher Quality Partnerships support innovation in the field; it must see at least level funding of \$43 million in this year's spending bill.

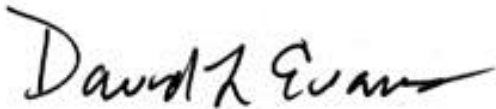
There are other federal programs that are crucial to teachers of every subject, the schools where they teach and the universities that prepare them, but these three investments are top of mind for our 100,000+ members. **The future of the teaching and learning of mathematics, science and the myriad STEM subjects relies on effective mathematics and science teachers.**

Thank you for your consideration of these views. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact NCTM's Ken Krehbiel at kkrehbiel@nctm.org or NSTA's Jodi Peterson at jpeterston@nsta.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Larson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Larson
President
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David L. Evans, Ph.D.
Executive Director
National Science Teachers Association

cc: Members of the US Senate