



NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
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April 3, 2006

The Honorable Rush Holt
U.S. House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Holt:

The National Science Teachers Association is pleased to support the National Science Foundation Scholars Program Act.

This legislation will make scholarship funds available so that science and math students can pursue STEM fields in college. This scholarship program that will entice a greater number of talented individuals to consider these fields, and increase the number of talented graduates in these areas. We also applaud language that places the program at the National Science Foundation, the federal agency best suited for this type of program, and language that provides consideration to students with financial need

We also strongly applaud the grants provided to institutions of higher education that will allow them to provide ongoing professional development, mentoring, and outreach initiatives to scholarship recipients.

As you know since the release of the National Academy of Sciences report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, there has been a chorus of voices from business, industry, science and engineering, and education all calling for extensive reforms in K-12 science and math education. Many realize that our nation's future competitiveness in the global marketplace is directly tied to the ability of our schools to prepare our children for the changing economy of the 21st century. We salute your efforts to directly address the challenges we face and the leadership you have shown with this legislation, and in the past several years, in championing K-12 science and math education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Wheeler", is written in a cursive style across the middle of the page.

Dr. Gerald Wheeler
Executive Director