



July 6, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Re: AeA request for full funding of Education provisions in the ACI

Dear Chairman Specter:

As you and your subcommittee colleagues consider the FY 2007 Labor/HHS appropriations bill, AeA (American Electronics Association) and the high-tech industry urge you to fully fund the K-12 and science programs at the Department of Education as requested in the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI).

AeA is the nation's largest high-tech trade association and represents over 1.8 million high-tech workers in more than 2,500 IT sector companies which span the high-technology spectrum, from software, semiconductors, medical devices and computers to Internet technology, advanced electronics and telecommunications systems and services. Complete information on AeA and its mission is available on our website at www.aeanet.org.

The U.S. high-tech community relies on the best and brightest talent in the world to produce top-notch and ahead of the curve products and services. Unfortunately, that talent is coming more often than not from abroad. Not enough American students today enter the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, and those that do often find themselves in institutions where there are too many unqualified teachers. The provisions of the ACI supported by our industry aim to improve this situation from the ground up, by focusing much of the proposed new funding on K-12 education. Specifically, AeA strongly supports the following education provisions in the ACI:

- Adjunct Teacher Corps (\$25 Million): to encourage up to 30,000 math and science professionals to become adjunct high school teachers.
- Math Now (\$250 Million): to improve K-8 and curricula and ensure that elementary and middle school students are fully prepared for upper level math courses.
- National Math Panel (\$10 Million): to examine and evaluate proven approaches to teaching math and science, in addition to improving instructional methods and materials.
- Advanced Placement (AP)/International Baccalaureate (IB) Program (\$122 Million): to train 70,000 additional teachers to lead AP/IB math and science courses, to increase the amount of these types of tests passed by low income students up to 700,000 total.
- Evaluation of Federal STEM Education Programs (\$5 Million): to determine, across agencies, which education programs are effective in meeting their stated goals.

Mr. Chairman, America's competitive edge is at stake here. That is why we urge full funding for these very important programs so that STEM education in the United States can once again begin to bridge the gap with respect to the rest of the world. If you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to reach me directly at 202-682-4442.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William T. Archey".

William T. Archey

cc: Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Judd Gregg
Senator Larry Craig
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Mike DeWine
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Tom Harkin
Senator Daniel Inouye
Senator Harry Reid
Senator Herbert Kohl
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Mary Landrieu
Senator Richard Durbin