



NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
1840 Wilson Boulevard • Arlington, VA 22201-3000
703-243-7100 • Fax. 703-243-7177 • www.nsta.org

March 23, 2006

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

Dear Representative Holt:

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) is pleased to support the Accelerating the Creation of Teachers of Influence for Our Nation Act. If enacted, we believe this legislation will create a new generation of highly qualified science and mathematics teachers.

We applaud the creation of the scholarship program and believe a program like this will help promote teaching careers in the STEM fields, as well as strengthen STEM content knowledge in teacher preparation programs. We are also pleased that a portion of the scholarships will be provided based on financial need and that a service obligation is included. We also endorse the option that recipients can continue their education by applying for scholarship funds to pursue a master degree program

NSTA believes that combining colleges of teacher education with STEM departments will be critical to the success of the scholarship program. Very few colleges and universities offer programs that combine a degree in one of the STEM areas with a teaching certification. We are pleased to see included in this bill substantial grants to IHE so they can develop undergraduate science, math and engineering degree programs with concurrent teacher certification programs and provide ongoing professional development and mentoring activities. These programs are critical to maintaining quality teachers in the classroom.

Thank you Representative Holt for your leadership in science and math education and we look forward to working with your office in moving this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Gerald Wheeler
Executive Director