



May 11, 2006

Alan I. Leshner  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Executive Publisher, *Science*

The Honorable Joe Schwarz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
128 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20015

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
U.S. House of Representatives  
415 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Representatives Schwarz and McCaul:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), I write to thank you for your leadership, and that of the House Committee on Science, in encouraging innovation and advancing science, mathematics, and engineering education.

AAAS is the nation's largest general scientific organization, representing 127,000 members directly and about 10 million scientists and engineers through our 262 affiliates. Our members, who are active as scientists and educators in every scientific field, feel strongly that Congress must take action to strengthen America's scientific and technological workforce and our country's economic potential.

AAAS believes that science, mathematics, and engineering education are essential to our country's future. To keep the United States at the forefront of technological development and economic growth, it is necessary to:

- Support students with financial need, including those who will become science and mathematics teachers
- Provide in-depth professional development for existing teachers
- Conduct research on how students learn science and develop standards-based curriculum that reflects the results of this research.
- Enhance science learning from kindergarten to graduate school, and support scientists as they begin their careers

AAAS appreciates your recently introduced legislation, which represents a significant step towards these goals.

It is encouraging to see leaders in both chambers of Congress, and from both parties, recognize the importance of science education to innovation. Undoubtedly, more work and collaboration will be needed to transform this interest into legislation that can be enacted before the end of this Congress. AAAS and its members stand ready to assist.

Sincerely,

Alan I. Leshner