



ASSOCIATION OF
SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY CENTERS

February 9, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable John Culberson
United States House of Representatives
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable José Serrano
United States House of Representatives
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As the fiscal year 2018 Federal budget process moves forward with increased non-defense discretionary spending caps, I am writing today on behalf of America's science centers and museums to request increased investment in key programs within science mission agencies related to informal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

These competitive grant programs provide critical support to science centers, museums, and other informal science-learning organizations across the country that inspire, engage, and educate millions of Americans—in every state and district—about STEM each year.

The Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) and its members—including more than 390 science centers and museums across the United States—encourage you to provide robust financial support for:

- **The NASA Office of Education, its STEM Education and Accountability Project (SEAP), and its Competitive Program for Science Museums, Planetariums and NASA Visitors Centers (CP4SMVPC)**
- **The NOAA Office of Education, its Bay Watershed Environmental Training (B-WET) grants, and its other competitive grants programs for informal STEM learning**
- **The National Science Foundation, and its Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) and STEM & Computing Partnerships (STEM+C) programs**

We deeply appreciate your past support of these programs, and we thank you for considering this request. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Cristin Dorgelo



February 16, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As the fiscal year 2018 Federal budget moves forward with increased non-defense discretionary spending caps, and looking ahead to fiscal year 2019, I am writing today on behalf of America's science centers and museums to request increased investment in the **Science Education Partnership Awards (SEPA)** program, a key activity within the National Institutes of Health, related to informal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

The Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) and its members—including more than 390 science centers and museums across the United States—encourage you to provide robust financial support for NIH's **SEPA** program. This competitive grant initiative provides critical support to science centers, museums, and other informal science-learning organizations across the country that inspire, engage, and educate millions of Americans about STEM each year.

SEPA invests in educational activities that assist in workforce development to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. By supporting partnerships between researchers and teachers, schools, and institutions like science centers and museums, the SEPA program provides opportunities for students from underserved communities to consider careers in research, provides teachers with professional development in science- and health-related content and teaching skills, and improves community health literacy through exhibits and programming at science centers and museums.

We deeply appreciate your past support of SEPA, and we thank you for considering this request. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Cristin Dorgelo