

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 14, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Health and Human Services, and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member
Health and Human Services, and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Harkin, and Shelby,

The effective use of education technology is necessary to strengthen our schools and prepare students for the 21st century workforce. The Enhancing Education Through Technology program (EETT) authorized in part D of Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act has provided important funds to schools in every state. While the appropriation has decreased substantially from \$700 million in FY2002 to only \$100 million in FY 2010, the program continues to provide states with funding vital to educational technology and especially the professional development necessary for technology to be effective. We write to urge you to include at least \$100 million for the EETT program for the FY 2011 appropriation as well as in the FY2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This funding level would equate to the FY 2010 appropriation, the lowest in the history of this important program.

The strategic use of education technology improves teaching and learning, especially in low-income and rural schools. Many states and schools, however, currently face challenges in meeting the academic needs and expectations of today's students. We support the Obama Administration's proposal to infuse education technology throughout federal programs, but recognize that EETT's dedicated funding stream is as critical as it has ever been. Because state and local education budgets are especially strained in the current economic climate, eliminating EETT would dramatically reduce the availability of education technology in many American public schools.

Enhancing Education Through Technology supports education technology infrastructure, capacity, and professional development in all states, and it allows states the flexibility to conduct competitive grant programs to support innovative practices that best improve student achievement. For our schools to out-educate, out-innovate and out-compete schools around the

world, our educators and students need access to 21st Century tools and skills. Adequately funding EETT will allow our teachers to use educational technology to prepare our students to succeed in the competitive global marketplace.

We urge you to include at least \$100 million to support the Enhancing Education Through Technology program. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jay Rothwell

Barbara Nickoli

My Bances

Whitome

Ben Carl

Patrick Leahy

Ron Wyden

Mark Begich

Jeanne Shaheen

Al Franken

Frank R. Lautenberg

Jim Johnson

Tom Udall

Carl Levin