

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

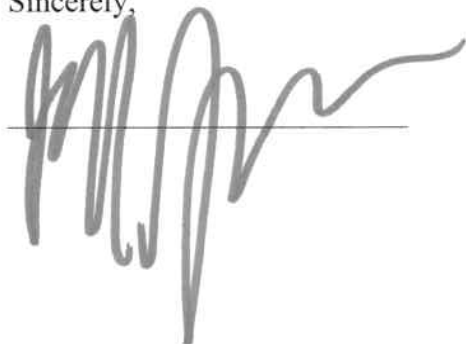
Because the effective use of education technology is necessary to strengthen our schools and prepare students for the 21st century workforce, we urge you to include at least \$500 million for the Enhancing Education Through Technology program (EETT) in the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. This would represent a slight decrease from FY 2009 and FY 2010 funding levels, which included \$650 million in EETT funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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. Congress should support the infusion of education technology throughout education programs and also preserve a dedicated funding stream to support education technology in schools. 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 provides assistance to states and localities for the implementation and support of a comprehensive system that effectively uses technology to improve student achievement. It supports education technology capacity and teacher 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 children to compete for 21st century jobs, they must receive a 21st century education. By funding EETT adequately, we can help teachers use educational technology to prepare our students to succeed in the competitive global marketplace. As you begin work on the FY 2011 Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to include at least \$500 million to support the Enhancing Education Through Technology program. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Robert Mering

Jeanne Hakeen

Whitmore

Frank R. Laukenberg

Barta Boy

Ron Wyden

Chris Dodd

Sherrill Brown

Joe Lint

Jeffrey A. Merbley

Barbara M. Nikulis

Ben Carl

Chuck Sch

Rebbie Fatenow

Von Usser

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Tim Kampen

Dalton

Wm F. B. A