



The Honorable Lamar Smith  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 1020- STEM Education Act of 2015

Dear Congressman Smith:

On behalf of National PTA's more than four million members nationwide, we voice our support for H.R. 1020, the STEM Education Act of 2015. We applaud you for introducing this legislation, which would support our schools by continuing to support existing STEM education programs and expand the definition of STEM subjects to address related fields like computer science.

As the nation's oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association, National PTA has made a difference in the education, health and well-being of America's children. With more than four million members and 22,000 local units in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Europe, PTA continues to be a powerful voice by advocating for federal policies to improve educational equity and opportunity for all children and their families.

As it relates to supporting public education, National PTA believes that the United States must place an increased emphasis on the teaching of STEM related curricula in order to ensure that all our youth acquire the knowledge and skills in these areas needed to join today's competitive workforce. Thus, National PTA is especially supportive of ensuring competitive, merit review grants to support STEM learning models that work to increase engagement for K-12 students in STEM education.

Accordingly, we urge the House to move quickly to vote on this legislation, which would allow funds to be used to further STEM education opportunities in the K-12 space. This is an important step that will support ongoing, sound educational opportunities for school children across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Otha E. Thornton Jr.".

Otha E. Thornton  
National PTA  
President