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January 20, 2011

Mr. Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

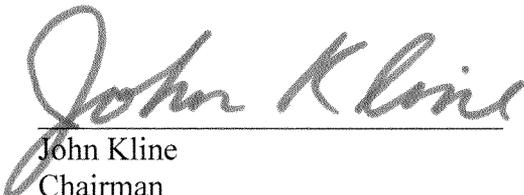
Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We respectfully request a review of the scope and efficacy of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs. Many experts agree that STEM programs, when properly focused, can help ensure a competitive workforce in the future. While it is critical for the United States to have an internationally competitive workforce, it is equally important to ensure programs geared toward this goal are not duplicative and do not waste taxpayer dollars.

In 2005, GAO reported more than 200 federally funded STEM programs across 13 federal agencies. Coordination and evaluation of these programs was limited and, in 2007, both the Academic Competitiveness Council and the National Science Board made recommendations to better coordinate STEM education programs. Currently, Congress is considering the reauthorization of several acts that include provisions for STEM education, including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. To help inform Congress's deliberations and ensure the effective and efficient use of STEM education program funding, we ask that your review include an overview of the number and nature of federal STEM education programs, any overlap or duplication of programs, and information on the effectiveness of these programs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact James Bergeron of the Committee staff at 202-225-6558.

Sincerely,



John Kline
Chairman
House Committee on Education and
the Workforce



Duncan Hunter
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Early Childhood
Elementary, and Secondary Education