



COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
Democratic Staff  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

## SUPPORT THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

February 23, 2006

Dear Colleague:

We ask you to join us in sending the attached letter to members of the Appropriations Committee urging them to provide \$30 million for the National Writing Project (NWP) in fiscal year 2007. ***The NWP is the only federally funded program that focuses on the teaching of writing.*** Through its proven professional development model, the National Writing Project builds the leadership, programs, and research needed for teachers to help their students become successful writers and learners. Unfortunately, the President recommended eliminating funding for this program in his fiscal year 2007 budget request.

Reports from the Business Roundtable and the National Commission on Writing confirm the growing concern about the quality of writing skills among today's high school and college graduates. The professional training and support provided to teachers who participate in National Writing Project's 195 programs gives them the skills they need to improve student performance in writing, including strategies for using technology to enhance student writing and learning.

**Instead of cutting this valuable program, we should be looking for ways to increase funds to ensure that *every* teacher in *every* state has access to this proven program. We must do all we can to ensure that our children have every opportunity to learn to write well.**

Please join me in sending the attached letter to the Appropriations Committee. If you wish to co-sign, please contact Joe Novotny by e-mail at [Joe.Novotny@mail.house.gov](mailto:Joe.Novotny@mail.house.gov) or by phone at 6-2068. **The deadline to sign on is Friday, March 10.**

Sincerely,

**George Miller**  
Senior Democrat  
Committee on Education and the Workforce

**Dale E. Kildee**  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competitiveness

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The Honorable Ralph Regula  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services,  
and Education  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services,  
and Education  
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Regula and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to urge you to provide \$30 million for the National Writing Project (NWP) in fiscal year 2007. The NWP is the only federally funded program that focuses on the teaching of writing. Through its proven professional development model, the NWP builds the leadership, programs, and research needed for teachers to help their students become successful writers and learners. Unfortunately, the President recommended eliminating funding for this program in his fiscal year 2007 budget request.

Reports from the National Commission on Writing and the Business Roundtable confirm the growing concern about the quality of writing skills among today's high school and college graduates. Today's students must prepare for a fast-paced, highly interactive, global world in which writing skills will continue to be essential. Students need expert writing instruction at every grade level and across the curriculum for their ongoing academic success.

The professional training and support provided to teachers who participate in National Writing Project funded programs gives them the skills they need to improve student performance in writing. In addition, NWP has launched a new initiative to help teachers make the most of technology for classroom learning as well as use technology to enhance professional development.

Each of the 195 NWP sites in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands leverages its federal contribution with a combination of state, local, and private funds, making it one of the most cost-effective programs supported by the U.S. Department of Education. In total, the NWP serves close to 130,000 teachers benefiting 7.5 million students.

The federal investment in the National Writing Project has contributed to dramatic improvement in the writing skills of these millions of students. Writing, whether on paper or online, is a threshold skill, essential if students are to prosper in college and the workplace.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,