

June 15, 2007

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Education and Labor Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard McKeon
Ranking Member
Education and Labor Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dale Kildee
Chairman
Early Childhood, Elementary and
Secondary Education Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Castle
Ranking Member
Early Childhood, Elementary and
Secondary Education Subcommittee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller, Representative McKeon, Chairman Kildee and Representative Castle:

RE: Support H.R. 2449, the Achievement through Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) Act

On behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), we write in support of the *Achievement through Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) Act* (HR 2449), recently introduced by Representatives Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX), Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Ron Kind (D-WI). We ask that you to include the ATTAIN Act in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as a substitute for the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program, Title II-D of the No Child Left Behind Act.

SIIA is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry, serving more than 800 leading software and information companies. All SIIA members depend on the nation's schools to provide a skilled, high-tech workforce with both academic proficiency in the core subject areas and 21st century skills. Many SIIA members are publishers and developers of innovative instructional materials, educational software and related technologies and services.

SIIA views federal leadership and investment through NCLB as critical to ensuring student academic preparedness and our national competitiveness. On April 12, SIIA submitted a full set of recommendations on ESEA reauthorization that encouraged you to build on the progress made through further enhancements. We believe the ATTAIN Act is an important component of reauthorization, and to supporting the school innovation and modernization through technology necessary for school improvement, meeting NCLB goals and requirements, and preparing students to compete in the knowledge-based, digital, global economy.

The ATTAIN Act would revamp EETT, building on its successes while making important improvements to ensure it addresses evolving needs and applies lessons learned in how best to effectively use technology to improve teaching and learning. The ATTAIN Act would:

- further focus funds on professional development and systemic reform that leverage 21st century technologies to redesign curriculum, instruction, assessment and data use;
- prioritize funding to schools in need of improvement and to students and subjects where academic proficiency is most lacking; and
- address the need for students to gain technology literacy and related 21st century skills, including through assessment of these abilities by the eighth grade.

School improvement through technology is vital for providing students with a learning environment that prepares them for the world beyond the classroom. We seek your support for the ATTAIN Act to help ensure our educational system adopts the modern methods needed to remain effective in the digital, information age.

SIIA looks forward to working further with you, your staffs and other Members of the Committee to ensure reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mark Schneiderman, SIIA's director of education policy, at 202-789-4444 or marks@siia.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Wasch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kenneth A. Wasch
President
Software & Information Industry Association