



American Statistical Association

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June 9, 2009

The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers
The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
U.S. Congress
Washington, DC

Dear Representative Ehlers and Senator Dodd,

On behalf of the American Statistical Association (ASA), I am writing in support of the Dodd-Ehlers Standards to Provide Educational Achievement for All Kids (SPEAK) Act. We applaud your efforts to establish mathematics and science education as a top national priority. The ASA is a proponent of excellence in math and science, including statistical literacy, and we would like to provide assistance to you and your staffs to help enact this critical bill. We can provide statistical literacy resources and access to statistics education experts, as well as assist you in working for passage of this bill.

We are pleased the SPEAK Act recognizes the need for statistical literacy in mathematics and science education standards as related in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and science frameworks. The ASA is a scientific and educational society of 18,000 members that works to improve statistical education at all levels and to use the statistics discipline to enhance human welfare. Many of our programs are designed to increase statistical literacy and reasoning, and we were instrumental in the development of the *Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE) Report: A Pre-K–12 Curriculum Framework*, which is free to download at www.amstat.org/education/gaise.

We also appreciate that the SPEAK Act includes funds for teacher training in data analysis. Although most national standards and benchmarks include data analysis and probability as an essential component of mathematics education, many K–12 teachers have not received the necessary training at the appropriate level to teach this aspect of quantitative literacy in their classrooms.

The ASA looks forward to working with both of your staffs as the bill works its way through the legislative process. Our staff is available to work with you on this important piece of legislation. If we can provide you any additional information or assistance (including a copy of the GAISE Report), please contact Rebecca Nichols at rebecca@amstat.org or (703) 302-1877.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally C. Morton".

Sally C. Morton, PhD