October 5, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kline, Chairman
House Education and the Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Ranking Member
House Education and the Workforce Committee
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Retain the ,QQRYDWLYH 7HFKQRORJ\ ([SDQGLQJ (QTECH) program in the ¶V +R final Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) bill.

Dear Chairman Alexander, Chairman Kline, Ranking Member Murray, and Ranking Member Scott,

The undersigned organizations and companies urge the Conference &RPPLWWHH WR UHWDLQ ¶V Me ,QQRYDWLYH 7HFKQRORJ\ ([SDQGV &KLOGUHQ¶V +RUL]RQV ,

The bipartisan I-TECH program, which would replace the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program, possesses three key strengths: 1) Woiuld IRFXV IXQ`r

TECH funds to plan and develop blended learning projects, and 3) it ZRXOG VWUHDPOLQH WKH H[LVWLQJ S process and give states significant control and flexibility in awarding subgrants.

Our organizations are particularly pleased that I-TECH prioritizes providing educators, including librarians, with continuous, feasible   , which we view as the linchpin for academic success. Indeed, the advent of digital assessments, digital textbooks, flipped and blended learning and myriad of other devices, tools, and services makes even more acute the need for technology professional development. According to a 2012 survey from Project Tomorrow, one-third of all educators indicated that the lack of sufficient professional development was a major obstacle to implementing technology in the classroom. Further, a recently released report from the Organization of Economic and Cooperative Development

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Gaggle
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Intel
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)
National Education Association (NEA)
National Rural Education Association (NREA)
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition (NREAC)
National Writing Project
SMART Technologies, Inc.
Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA)
State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
The Source for Learning, Inc.