April 1, 2009

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, and Education  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, and Education  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As your Subcommittee prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Education, we urge you to restore funding for the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education program to at least, the FY 2002 level of $11.25 million.

Gifted students require a different educational approach in order to reach their full potential. Education experts agree that under the provisions of No Child Left Behind, teachers are forced to teach one lesson plan for all students, focused on students in the middle, and to spend extra effort on those at the bottom, ignoring the students at the top. We must give our nation’s schools the proper resources for them to be able to give gifted students the proper attention they need for them to fully realize their potential.

However, the only federally funded program aimed at helping our nation’s gifted students, the Javits Gifted and Talented program, has seen consistent funding cuts since 2002. Due to these funding cuts the Javits program has been unable to award competitive grants to state and local educational agencies to develop or expand their gifted and talented educational programs.

A recent study has even found that by analyzing fifth-grade test scores in Chicago public schools before and after the enactment of No Child Left Behind in 2002, performance rose consistently for all but the most and least advanced students. This study is further proof that Congress must work toward the goal of seeing gifted and talented programs take root in school districts across the country so our nation’s best and brightest students are able to realize their full potential.

Again, we request that funding for the Javits program be restored to at least $11.25 million in the FY 2010 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

ELTON GALLEGLY  
Member of Congress

JIM MATHESON  
Member of Congress