

AAPT Congressional Visit Day highlights the importance of effective and inclusive STEM classrooms

The Board of Directors of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) has again partnered with the American Institute of Physics (AIP) Public Policy Team to engage congress in important discussions around Physics and STEM Education. #AAPTOntheHill
[learn more]



[after clicking on learn more]

Our visit to the Hill, on April 26th, preceded our Spring Board meeting and was centered around the importance of creating “*effective and inclusive STEM classrooms: Essential for the US STEM Workforce.*” With support from the AIP, AAPT crafted three one pagers that connected to this overarching AAPT priority.

These one pagers encouraged congress to take the following actions:

- Fund the National Science Foundation (NSF) at \$9 billion for FY 2020. A proportional increase, compared to FY 2019 funding, should go toward the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate, which supports fellowship programs and research on STEM education pedagogy.
- Support Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson’s Bill H.R. 36, Combating Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019.
- Reject the President’s FY 2020 proposed cuts to the Department of Education and restore these funds to provide high quality professional development programs for physics teachers and high quality after school and informal STEM-related programs.
 - Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Title II, Part A)
 - Student Support and Academic Enhancement Grants (Title IV, Part A)
 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B)

AAPT recognizes its role, as a leading voice in physics education, to advocate for STEM education at all levels, for all students. It is important that this advocacy happens at both the federal and state level and that legislatures hear from us, and hear from us often - these are opportunities to engage in conversation and build relationships.



If you want to be involved in this type of work, AAPT has materials that can support your efforts. Visit our [Policy & Legislation](#) page to learn more about AAPT's efforts and how you can engage in this work. On this page you will find materials to support your visit, AAPT policy statements, Physics advocacy work, and more. You can also find two webinars conducted by Dr. Bethany Johns (AIP) on the [K-12 portal](#) and we will soon be posting our one pagers for you to download and leverage during your own visits with legislators. AIP and APS have broad expertise in government relations work and we encourage you to check out their extensive resources @ <https://www.aip.org/policy> and <https://www.aps.org/policy/>.



We are planning to assist membership in conducting these visits when we are back in DC for our [summer 2021 meeting](#)!