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NAGC Urges President Obama to Reverse Proposed Termination of Javits Program

WASHINGTON (May 7, 2009) - The National Association for Gifted Children is urging President Obama to reconsider his proposed termination of an invaluable gifted education research program.

Funded through the Jacob Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act, these “Javits Grants” support research projects aimed at enhancing how our schools identify, assess and educate our nation’s gifted children from disadvantaged backgrounds.”

“Despite being chronically underfunded, the Javits program has made a marked difference in how our nation educates our most promising students, especially those gifted students from underserved populations,” NAGC Executive Director Nancy Green said.

“Instead of proposing to scrap the program in its entirety, the Administration should instead seek to provide full funding for the Javits program to expand the scope and breadth of research so more promising interventions can be applied to help students in classrooms throughout the nation,” she added.

For more than 20 years, the Javits program has led the way in identifying best practice and academic rigor for high-ability learners from disadvantaged backgrounds - critical research that is not being conducted elsewhere. All too often, the gifts and talents of economically disadvantaged students go unrecognized and undeveloped because challenging educational experiences are unavailable. The Javits program has been instrumental in changing this dynamic so that high-ability learners from poverty no longer fall through the cracks.

“Ending the Javits program will eliminate the only federal support provided for gifted students. Considering that Washington invests less than 3 cents of every \$100 dollars in education funding in gifted students, this is exactly the wrong move for the Administration to make.

"On behalf of all gifted students - especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds - I urge the President to reverse his proposed termination of the Javits program and call upon the Administration and Congress to reinstate AND fully fund this critical initiative.”

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