

**Coburn Amendment 405— To eliminate duplication, fragmentation, and overlap within the 209 Science, Math, Engineering, and Technology (STEM) programs within 13 different departments.**

**Background:** In 2012, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found the Federal government has 209 STEM programs, which cost \$3.1 billion a year. Despite these 209 Federal programs, American students are lagging behind students in other highly developed nations in math and science.

This amendment allows the appropriate committees to reduce the deficit through consolidating or reforming duplicative and overlapping STEM programs outlined in GAO's annual report to reduce program duplication. Consolidating and reforming these programs to ensure they are effective and efficient will better serve students.

**GAO Found STEM programs within:**

**NASA, 9 Programs**

**National Science Foundation, 37 Programs**

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 3 Programs**

**Department of Agriculture, 11 Programs**

**Department of Commerce, 19 Programs**

**Department of Defense, 19 Programs**

**Department of Education, 12 Programs**

**Department of Energy, 29 Programs**

**Department of Health and Human Services, 46 Programs**

**Department of Homeland Security, 5 Programs**

**Department of Interior, 3 Programs**

**Department of Transportation, 6 Programs**

**Environmental Protection Agency, 10 Programs**

**209 federal STEM programs:** GAO found a total of 209 federal programs designed to support science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. 170 programs serve postsecondary students, 75 programs served K-12 students, and 70 programs served K-12 teachers.

**\$3.1 billion in FY2010:** Through these 209 programs, the federal government invested \$3.1 billion in FY 2010 for STEM education. There is a large disparity in the size of the programs. 5 of the programs spent over

\$100 million each, while nearly a third of the programs spent less than \$1 million in FY2010.

**83% of programs overlap another program:** GAO found that 173 of the 209 programs, or 83 percent, overlap at least one other STEM program. In addition, The Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Energy, and the National Science Foundation administer 112 STEM programs.

**Congress continues expanding STEM Education without knowledge of effectiveness:** Approximately one-third of these programs were created and first funded between 2005 and 2010, but despite the number of programs we have for STEM education, the United States lags “behind students in other highly technological nations in mathematics and science achievement.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> GAO-12-342SP: 2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue. Government Accountability Office. February 2012.