



**ITAG Spotlight on Gifted Education  
March 2011**

March 15<sup>th</sup> we were on Capitol Hill meeting with legislators on gifted education issues. **Now we need your help in reinforcing the requests we made on behalf of our gifted kids by April 1!**

Email your Senators/Representatives and ask them to support funding for the Javits Act, and ask them to support changes to the Talent Act. Details on each request follows:

**Javits funding:  
Senate:**

A detailed explanation of Javits funding can be found at <http://nagc.org>. Click on middle column, "NAGC News to Note," Your Help Needed by April 1 to Fund Javits." Remember that Javits is the only federally funded program in gifted education, and its role is to provide a platform for research in strategies that identify and serve high ability, underserved students such as rural gifted students and students in poverty.

Email Senator Grassley and thank him for being a co-sponsor (with Bob Casey, Jr. of Pennsylvania) of a letter asking for Javits funding for fiscal year 2012.  
<http://grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

Email Senator Harkin and ask him to support continued funding for Javits for fiscal year 2012. Senator Harkin is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services and Education Senate Appropriations Committee, and his committee will decide if Javits will be funded.  
<http://harkin.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

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**House:**

Email your representative and ask him to show his support for gifted and talented students by co-signing the Gallegly-Courtney letter that supports continued funding for the Javits funding.

When you email your senators and representatives, also ask them to support the TALENT ACT. They have received detailed information about it, so they know what it entails.

As Congress prepares to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), NAGC wants the needs of gifted and high ability students met as early as possible. We are asking for:

Assessments that are vertically aligned to measure student knowledge of standards established ABOVE their grade level, allowing for reporting of learning growth for ALL students on state report cards.

Funding under Title II, Part A Grant requiring a description of staff development strategies to improve educators' teaching skills for students who are gifted and talented.

Modification of Title I to require schools to describe how they will identify and serve gifted and talented students. Expansion of Rural Education Achievement Program to support gifted students in rural communities through activities such as professional development for teachers.

Establish a National Research and Dissemination Center that will conduct research on strategies for identification and teaching of gifted students, teacher training, and professional development systems for parents. Direct the Secretary of Education to collect data and report of the education of gifted and talented students.

Gifted and Talented Students Education program in 2012.

Representatives and email addresses:

1. Bruce Braley (1st district): <http://www.braley.house.gov>
2. Leonard Boswell (3rd district): <http://boswell.house.gov>

3. Tom Latham (4th district): Congressman Latham cannot co-sign the letter, since he is on the House Appropriations Committee. When you email him, ask him to vote for funding for Javits.  
<http://tomlatham.house.gov>
4. Steve King (5th district) <http://steveking.house.gov>
5. Email Dave Loeb sack (2nd district) and **THANK HIM** for signing the Gallegly-Courtney letter. This is the 3rd year he has co-signed the "Dear Colleague" letter in support of Javits! <http://loeb sack.house.gov>

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**Sample letter:**

Dear Congressman\_\_\_\_\_:

I am asking you to help the gifted and high ability students in Iowa by supporting funding for the Javits program for 2012. In addition, I strongly believe that including gifted and high ability learners in the TALENT Act will help keep Iowa's position as one of the top states in educational excellence. We need to reach those students in rural areas as well as minority students and children in poverty.

I hope you will support funding the Javits program, as well as the changes proposed in the TALENT Act.

Sincerely,

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**Your voices make a difference! Please act now!**

Thank you,  
Gail Kenkel  
Linda Moehring  
Maureen Marron  
ITAG Board Legislative Team