



TIGER

Tennessee Initiative for Gifted Education Reform

TIGER is a statewide, non-profit organization of parents and other advocates working to strengthen educational opportunities for academically gifted children in Tennessee.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TIGER Strongly Supports Increased Funding for the Javits Act

Representative Bob Clement Supports Effort to Improve Gifted Education

The Tennessee Initiative for Gifted Education Reform (TIGER) strongly supports increased funding for the Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act. The Javits program funds (1) the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented located at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, (2) demonstration grants for local gifted programs and training, and (3) grants to states for districts to conduct statewide activities related to gifted education.

Senator Charles Grassley (Iowa) and Representative Elton Gallegly (California) have proposed that funding be increased from \$11 million to \$25 million. The lower amount means \$3.75 million is available for state grants -- enough to fund about 8 major grants. If funding is increased to \$25 million, then \$17.5 million -- or about 40 major grants -- will be available for state and local programs. The President's budget request omits funding for the Javits program.

Educational opportunities for gifted students in Tennessee are shrinking. Recently, the Tennessee Governor's Schools for Gifted and Talented Students were eliminated and the state legislature considered eliminating the state mandate for gifted education. That is why TIGER applauds Representative Bob Clement (Tennessee) who recently joined the effort to increase Javits funding to \$25 million. Representative Clement is sending a strong and timely message to Tennesseans that gifted education is a national priority. TIGER encourages all members of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation to co-sign the Javits appropriation request authored by Grassley and Gallegly.

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