

Dear Geography Education Advocate:

I need your help!

I flew to Washington, DC at the beginning of March to meet with our Senators and Congressional Representatives to urge them to support a bill—called the *Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act*—that would authorize \$15 million annually for teacher-training and curriculum materials in geographic education. Did you know that Geography is the ONLY required subject that does not receive any dedicated federal funding under No Child Left Behind? Not one dime. Yet, every other required subject receives support.

It will help our cause immensely if the Members of Congress that I met with hear from constituents about the importance of geography education and about the existence of the *Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act*.

I urge you to join me in a chorus of support for action by Congress and the Administration. You can send an email to President Obama, Vice President Biden, and our IN federal delegates directly from a few federal websites. Here's what to do:

1. To write the President, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>.
 - Fill in the required fields; the website will walk you through the rest!
2. To write your Senator, visit www.senate.gov/.
 - In the upper right corner click "Find Your Senators," click on your state's name, and click "go." Use the web form or address provided for each Senator.
3. To write your Representative, visit http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/index.html.
 - Click on the link "Write Your Representative."
 - When prompted, just enter your Zip code and the website will walk you through the rest!

(In your email, it is important to mention the Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act (TGIF). Senate Bill 434 and House Bill 885 in the 112th Congress. Customize the email by noting how long you have been teaching, why geography is important to you, and how being a member of your state alliance, participating in workshops/institutes, etc. has helped you and your students.)

It's just a few, short emails and it's easy to do. If you take a few moments to write today, then our Indiana Members of Congress will know that I am speaking for a large and accomplished group of educators who are making a difference here in the state and who need their support.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help me put geography "back on the map" with federal support. I am proud to represent the Alliance to our state leaders, and I am hopeful that we can correct the troubling oversight that leaves Geography alone without funding.

Please feel free to forward this message to others as well. THANK YOU and BE WELL!!!

Geographically,

Kathy Kozenski

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