



January, 2024

Dear President Biden and Dr. Jill Biden:

I extend respectful greetings from Idaho, as the Superintendent of Public Instruction. I am reaching out to advocate on behalf of 806 distinguished math and science teachers who, as state finalists, await with anticipation the announcement of the national awardees for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). This exceptional awards program, managed by the National Science Foundation, cultivates teacher leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education across the nation.

I recently attended a celebration dinner for present and past PAEMST National Awardees from Idaho, with attendance from awardees going back to the 1980s. At this event, I was able to hear personal stories of how receiving this award positively influenced the careers of Idaho educators. This awards program empowers talented educators to become strong advocates for STEM education.

Regrettably, the White House has yet to declare the national PAEMST awardees for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. This delay is a source of concern for these educators who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and proficiency in their respective fields. It has, unfortunately, sent a message that the present administration does not support the PAEMST program.

As school districts and economies are recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, support for mathematics and science education is paramount. Additionally, so is honoring our most exceptional teachers.

I appeal to you, Mr. President and Dr. Biden, to expedite the announcement of the awardees for 2021, 2022 and 2023 award cycles. Please ensure that these educators receive the commendation they richly deserve and that the backlog of cohorts does not cause teachers to lose confidence in this program. We are presently beginning the review cycle to name the 2024 finalists.

Thank you for your prioritization of this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Critchfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Critchfield