



March 8, 2012

## **Department: Capital Update**

### **Federal Funding for Gifted Education – Your Voice Needed**

The Congress has begun the fiscal year 2013 process and your Members of Congress need to hear from you.

As the House and Senate appropriations committees begin their work each year on the separate bills that fund federal agencies and programs, they conduct hearings to receive input from the administration on its goals, and they receive letters from individual offices about Members' priorities.

This is where you come in as a constituent and gifted education advocate.

The [Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act \(Javits\)](#) is the sole federal program dedicated to exploring strategies to identify and serve gifted and talented students, especially those who have been under-represented in gifted education programs. The program, which supported the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented as well as school-based research grants, was de-funded in fiscal year 2011. School districts and teachers across the country have used – and continue to use – the research results generated by the Javits program to support gifted students in the classroom and to develop and improve their gifted education services and programs. It's critical to gifted and talented students, and those who have not been formally identified as gifted, that the Congress restores the research program so that we can continue developing and disseminating best practices in instruction and identification procedures.

Please contact your Representative and Senators by March 16. [Click here](#) for Congressional contact information and a sample message.