

**The American Economic Association Committee on Government Relations**  
<https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/government-relations>

November 13, 2019

The National Assessment Governing Board  
800 North Capital Street, Suite 825  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Acting Chair Matthews and Members of the Board,

The American Economic Association's (AEA) Committee on Government Relations is charged with representing the interests of the economics profession in Washington DC and other government locations around the country without taking a position on questions of economic policy or on any partisan matter.

We write to let you know that we agree with and endorse the opinion (attached) of AEA's Committee on Economic Education that there is a "need for more work to continue to measure economic knowledge and enhance it for all K-12 students." The recent elimination of the economic education assessment fails to capitalize on previous assessments' suggestion that America's high school graduates are unprepared to understand or make decisions based on a basic comprehension of market forces.

We agree with our colleagues that "discontinuing the NAEP Economics Assessment will cause a loss not only for students who will be less prepared for life in today's society but also for our nation as it functions less effectively with a less economically literate population."

Thank you for taking our perspective into consideration as you make future decisions about the need for a variety of educational assessments.

Most sincerely,

Kenneth Troske  
Chair, AEA Committee on Government Relations, and  
Professor of Economics and Senior Associate Dean  
University of Kentucky

cc: Leslie Muldoon, Executive Director, NAGB  
Gregorio Sablan, Chair, and Rick W. Allen, Ranking Member, U.S. House Subcommittee on Early  
Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education  
Lamar Alexander, Chair, and Patty Murry, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor and Pensions  
KimMarie McGoldrick, Chair, American Economic Assoc. Committee on Economic Education

The following members of the AEA Committee on Government Relations agree with the sentiments expressed in this letter:

Karen Dynan, Professor, Department of Economics, Harvard University, and former Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy and Chief Economist, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Thomas J. Holmes, Curtis L. Carlson Chair in Economics, the University of Minnesota, and visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Susan Houseman, Senior Economist at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

Bruce D. Meyer, McCormick Foundation Professor of Economics, University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy Studies, and former Commissioner, Commission on Evidence Based Policymaking

Karen Palmer, Senior Fellow and Research Director at Resources for the Future

Nina Pavcnik, Niehaus Family Professor of International Studies and Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College

Fiona M. Scott Morton, Professor of Economics at the Yale University School of Management, and former Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Economics at the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice

Betsey Stevenson, Professor of Public Policy and Economics, University of Michigan, former member of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, and former Chief Economist for the U.S. Department of Labor