



TEMPLATE: Support SEPA Funding¹

Personalize this letter as you see fit, especially anything highlighted in yellow.

Dear **[Representative or Senator]**,

My name is **[name]**, and I am a **[research professional/educator/community member/other role]** affiliated with the Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR).

The NIH's Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) program is currently under threat. I am writing to strongly encourage you to support the continued funding of SEPA. SEPA uniquely connects scientists with K–12 educators and is the only federally funded program that uses after-school initiatives, summer camps, museum partnerships, and teacher training to introduce K–12 students to STEM research and careers. It helps build scientific literacy, critical thinking, data evaluation, and problem-solving skills — competencies that traditional K–12 education alone cannot fully provide.

Every year, SEPA projects reach more than 16 million K–12 students and teachers, along with over 29 million family and community members. However, NIH has recently terminated more than half of these programs, leaving the others in limbo. This threatens to dismantle decades of investment in STEM education infrastructure and partnerships. Sustained support is essential to maintain SEPA's critical mission.

In **Washington State, one of the SEPA-supported programs, RIPPLES, was terminated in the first year of a five-year award.** This decision impacts hundreds of teachers and tens of thousands of students. For decades, this program has brought teachers to centers like Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center for immersive, hands-on experiences, enabling them to bring authentic, cutting-edge molecular biology into classrooms through equipment loans and continued mentorship. Now, its long-standing positive impact is at serious risk.

[I have been involved with / I strongly support funding for SEPA-supported programs at [institution] for [number] years. These programs have been profoundly meaningful to me because [reason(s) — e.g., they expand equitable access to research careers; they strengthen teacher confidence in delivering modern science education; etc.].

¹ This template is adapted from the National Science Education Partnerships Association: nsepassoc.org.

NWABR

Northwest Association for Biomedical Research

Our nation urgently needs to cultivate the next generation of scientifically literate citizens and professionals. I respectfully urge you to support SEPA and protect programs that build a more informed, skilled, and resilient STEM workforce for the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Affiliation or role with NWABR, if applicable]