

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR LOGO HERE**

LEGISLATOR NAME

ADDRESS

Re: (list resolution or bill number)

As a member of (YOUR STATE’S )Teachers Association (\_\_\_\_STA), I am writing in support of the Education Policy bill (HOUSE OR SENATE and BILL #), in particular the changes to the science graduation requirements. The bill supports the implementation of the recently developed (YOUR STATE) Science Standards, which currently are in the Rulemaking process.

This letter of support has been endorsed by (list your organization and any others as well). FILL IN YOUR OWN STATS HERE → *Our organization represents over 500 science teachers, grades K - 16, throughout the state.* Our organization was actively involved in the development of the science standards by conducting input meetings in regions of the state before the standards were written, and during the feedback periods for both drafts of the standards. The standards committee included five of our current board members. As such, our organization is a strong advocate for the new standards and for actions that support teachers and schools in implementing the standards.

The current language of (LIST STATE STATUTE INFO) specifies the following graduation requirement for science.

*‘COPY AND PASTE YOUR CURRENT STATUTE TEXT HERE’*

**EXPLAIN YOUR RATIONALE FOR THE CHANGE:** The 2009 standards have five areas of high school content standards: life science, physical science, earth & space science, physics and chemistry. All students complete their life science standards in high school biology and earn one credit in biology. Through the chemistry or physics credit, students meet the requirement that students satisfy either the chemistry or physics standards. Hence, in most schools, the remaining 1 “elective” credit must support students in accomplishing both the physical science and the earth & space science standards. For most schools, this is very difficult and often they are not able to have students accomplish all the high school earth science standards.

Based on public input, (over 1300 comments), the 2019 science standards committee affirmed the importance of earth science content and skills for all students, and by extension, our state’s economy. The committee intentionally strengthened the high school earth and space science standards and benchmarks. They also determined that the physical science benchmarks previously in the high school standards would be more appropriate at 8th grade where they fit better with the 8th grade math standards.

**EXPLAIN PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGE:** When the 2019 standards are implemented in 2023-24, “all other academic standards ... in other academic standards” will only be the earth and space science standards. As a result, the proposed change in the statute makes this requirement explicit.

*‘COPY AND PASTE PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGE HERE’*

The changes in the science standards and the graduation requirements will benefit our students by making them better prepared for the future of our state, which is highly dependent on wise management of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL