



## WSST STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE MARCH FOR SCIENCE

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FROM: Tammy Huenink, WSST President

The March for Science will occur on April 22nd, 2017 in Washington D.C. and in hundreds of cities throughout the United States, including more than a dozen in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers supports these non-partisan efforts to raise awareness of the importance of science, the process of science, and the value of investing in science research and education. In addition, We encourage teachers of science to participate in these events.

From precision agriculture to innovative motorcycle design and cutting-edge biotechnology, science is a key driver for Wisconsin's economy. From managing our deer herd to fighting invasive species and protecting our waterways, science allows us to enjoy Wisconsin's natural resources. From world championship cheese to concussion minimizing football helmets, science advances Wisconsin's identity. Science is intertwined with Wisconsin's way of life. Therefore, investments in science are investments in a better future for Wisconsin's citizens.

For nearly sixty years, the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers (WSST) has promoted and advanced excellent science teaching throughout the state. Every child deserves high quality science experiences in and out of the classroom. Teachers of science work every day to help our state's children understand the foundational content of science and the process of science. We believe that evidence-based and publicly available science is a cornerstone of society. Ethical use of scientific advances have a profoundly positive impact on people.

For this reason, we support the mission of the non-partisan March for Science to "champion robustly funded and publicly communicated science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity." Our organization shares the publicly-stated goals of the March for Science, in particular the focus on "...science education that teaches children and adults to think critically, ask questions, and evaluate truth based on the weight of evidence. Science is not a field that should be understood only by a small few -- every person, from every background, deserves an education that encourages scientific learning alongside the arts and humanities."

More than 100 scientific and education organizations, including the National Science Teachers Association, have provided support for the March for Science. We concur with David Evans, NSTA Executive Director, when he wrote the following about NSTA's decision to partner with the March for Science:

We know that science teachers work hard every day so that the next generation of citizens will understand and value science. We also work to ensure that all students have access to quality science experiences and evidence based information and research.

The NSTA Board believes that scientific integrity and transparency have been questioned and that as teachers, we must stand with our colleagues to support the fundamental value of science in our society and help people to understand and appreciate scientific knowledge and the importance of fact-based evidence that is exemplified by science.

### Resources

- WSST Nature of Science Resources <http://www.wsst.org/science-matters>
- WSST Advocacy Page <http://www.wsst.org/advocacy>
- The March for Science <https://www.marchforscience.com/>
- Local March for Science Events <https://www.marchforscience.com/satellite-marches/>