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The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

On behalf of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), I am writing to endorse the "Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act" and to thank you for your important leadership in crafting this legislation.

ASME has long advocated for the advancement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to ensure our students are being equipped with the skills and tools they need to succeed in today's in demand STEM jobs. Global competition for a technologically literate and ready workforce continues to grow as the world becomes more reliant on STEM skills, deeming it essential that the U.S. aligns its K-12 core curriculum to the expectations of its 21st century workforce.

As STEM fields become more advanced, it is important to modernize the way we teach traditional STEM skills to promote better learning. In directing the National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide competitive grants focused on modernizing mathematics in STEM education, this new legislation takes an important step forward in ensuring our student remain competitive globally.

Strong K-12 STEM education is not only important for students wishing to pursue technical degrees in higher education, rather all citizens need to be more be technologically literate to be competitive in an economy where many emerging industries are based on technology and its applications. To give our students the best chance of continued success beyond the classroom and further the country's research and innovation agenda, it is critical we reevaluate our current approaches to engineering and mathematical education and develop innovative approaches that support and sustain high-quality STEM education, as outlined in this legislation.

ASME applauds your work and thanks you for your leadership on this issue. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathryn Holmes, Director of ASME Government Relations at (202) 785-7390. We look forward to the passage of the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act.

Sincerely,

Thomas Costabile, P.E.
Executive Director/CEO