

# **GISCI Resolution Supporting K-12 Geography Education**

**April 28, 2010**

WHEREAS, Congress is poised to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as “No Child Left Behind,” for the first time in almost a decade;

WHEREAS, geography is one of ten “core academic subjects” identified in the ESEA, allowing for specific appropriations to implement programs that advance the teaching of geography at the K-12 level;

WHEREAS, geography education is central to preparing students to be informed citizens of the United States and economically competitive in a rapidly globalizing world;

WHEREAS, the geospatial technology industry, including areas such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), GPS, and remote sensing, has been identified by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the three most important emerging and evolving fields, with job opportunities rapidly growing and diversifying as these technologies prove their value ever more widely;

WHEREAS, employers in all sectors, including private industries, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations, have indicated that there is a pressing need for more students completing their educations with the geographic science and GIS skills needed to support a rapidly growing geospatial technology industry,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GIS CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE THAT:**

We urge Congress to include legislative authorizations and appropriations for geography education as part of a reauthorized ESEA that are consistent with other core academic subjects for K-12; and

We urge Congress to enhance geography teacher training by passing the Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act (H.R. 1240/S. 749).