



It Was a Priority

August 3, 2007

The headline of your story discussing a high school reform summit in Oakland suggested that the participating members of Congress did not arrive in time to benefit from the preceding panel discussions ("Lawmakers Late for Education Summit," July 22). As president of one of the sponsoring organizations, I want to correct this misunderstanding.

First, Representatives Barbara Lee, D-Oakland, and George Miller, D-Martinez, made great efforts to attend. The night before, they were in Washington, casting votes in Congress until early in the morning. Rather than cancel, they raced across the country on the last available flights.

Second, Miller and Lee and their staffs worked closely with the event organizers before and during the event. Panel discussions and audience response were videotaped, in part for their use.

Finally, Rep. Miller, who chairs the House Education and Labor Committee, stayed past his planned departure time to respond to the audience's questions and statements.

In short, both Miller and Lee made this important event a priority, and we appreciate the commitment they demonstrated.

Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education, Washington, D.C.