

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

June 21, 2011

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, supports H.R. 2218, the "Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act," which would improve the Federal government's support of charter schools.

The Chamber believes that dramatically improving the performance of the K-12 education system in the United States is essential to providing a strong foundation for both U.S. competitiveness and for individuals to succeed. Public charter schools are one of the most promising education reform innovations of the last several decades. Charter schools provide much needed options for parents and allow greater flexibility to innovate and improve student performance. With more than 1.5 million children attending nearly 5,000 charter schools in 40 states, charter schools provide choices to disadvantaged students who were formerly trapped in schools with few options to access a better education.

The bill would encourage the removal of state charter caps; authorize funding for expansion grants to high performing charter schools; and continue the Federal role in supporting charter schools facilities, which is the biggest barrier to entry for those seeking to organize new charters. This bill would also improve the program's accountability and transparency provisions and encourage states to aid education entrepreneurs who are seeking to support the charter school movement. The bill advances these priorities in a fiscally responsible manner.

The Chamber urges the Committee to report this important legislation to the full House as expeditiously as practicable.

Sincerely,



Bruce Josten

cc: The Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce