



Charter School Lenders' Coalition

1050 Connecticut Ave, NW | 10th Floor | Washington, DC 20036

June 20, 2011

Representative John Kline
Chairman, House Committee on
Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Duncan Hunter
Chairman, House Subcommittee Early
Childhood, Elementary and
Secondary Education
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Subcommittee Chairman Hunter:

On behalf of the Charter School Lenders Coalition^{*}, I want to thank you for your leadership in promoting educational opportunities for disadvantaged communities through the replication of high-performing public charter schools. We believe your proposed legislation, H.R. 2218, the “Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act,” would provide essential tools and resources to address the dire need for quality education for low-income students.

In particular, we are grateful that your proposed legislation includes provisions to address the capital funding gaps that public charter schools face. As you well know, one of the most recognized barriers to the growth of public charter schools is the access to private capital to ensure quality facilities, particularly to arrange acquisition and development funding for facilities. Your bill ensures at least 15% of the total appropriation for public charter schools will be available for facilities, including the highly successful Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program at the U.S. Department of Education. This will go a long way in helping public charter schools address the capital funding gap, as well as strengthen the public-private partnerships between the schools and the mission-driven organizations that provide these capital resources.

Thank you again for your commitment to our nation’s children and your leadership in striving to give our students the best possible education and learning opportunities.

Sincerely,



Corey Carlisle

Chair, Charter School Lenders Coalition

Cc: Mandy Schaumburg, professional staff, House Committee on Education and the Workforce

^{*} The Charter School Lenders Coalition is an unincorporated advocacy and information sharing collaborative that brings together mission driven, community development practitioners who are currently providing capital to charter schools in low-income communities.