



The Education Trust

Closing the gaps in opportunity and achievement, pre-k through college.

April 7, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

I am writing to express The Education Trust's support for H.R. 10, the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act. Charter schools remain an important education reform tool for our nation's children, especially for low-income students and students of color, and this bill will strengthen their impact. Thank you for your leadership in moving this important legislation.

In expressing our support for H.R. 10, we want to thank the Committee for taking measures to improve charter school quality, strengthen access and outcomes for English learners and students with disabilities at charter schools, and ensure parents have the information they need to make the best educational decision for their children. Setting a critical expectation around quality, the bill places a stronger emphasis on the standards for charter schools and the authorizing process used to approve them. The bill's additional technical assistance should ensure better services and educational outcomes for students that attend such schools. Furthermore, the bill's focus on quality controls between states and charter school authorizers is critical, especially in regards to how a charter school's academic performance will factor into the renewal or revocation of its charter.

Building on the emphasis around quality, H.R. 10 makes a number of improvements to the statute pertaining to students with disabilities and English language learners. Specifically, the bill requires states to monitor recruitment and enrollment to ensure that the needs of these students are met in charter schools. In addition, states would provide technical assistance to foster higher charter school enrollments of students with disabilities and English language learners, comparable with that in traditional public schools.

Lastly, the bill ensures that charter schools provide information about program offerings, support services, and performance and enrollment data so parents can make informed decisions on where their children go to school. This additional information will allow parents to fully understand the educational environment and course offerings of the school.

Thank you again for your leadership in moving this important bill forward. We urge the Committee to pass this legislation with bipartisan support.

Sincerely,

Kati Haycock
The Education Trust