



April 14, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Senior Democrat
Committee on Education and the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Senior Democrat Miller:

On behalf of the Foundation for Excellence in Education, I am pleased to write in support of H.R. 10, the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act, which will promote state efforts to authorize, develop, and expand high-quality charter schools and help ensure more children have access to the critical educational opportunities they deserve.

The Foundation for Excellence in Education, founded by former Governor Jeb Bush in 2008, works with decision makers on developing, adopting and implementing education reform policies. We are a hands-on, how-to organization that provides model legislation, rule-making expertise, implementation strategies, and public outreach. Our staff has years of experience working with state and local governments and legislative bodies, in the classroom, and with the media. We are working toward an education system that maximizes every student's potential for learning and prepares all students for success in the 21st century.

Across our nation's diverse and dynamic states, one thing unites us all: a concern about the quality of education in America. We know a quality education can change a life; it can provide each and every student with the knowledge and skills to achieve his or her dreams. Yet, while states across our nation are experiencing a fundamental shift toward reform-minded education policies, too many students remain victims of the status quo.

Therefore, the Foundation supports a comprehensive reform agenda to create a high-quality, student-centered education system, including policies that empower families to choose educational options through public charter schools.

Accordingly, the Foundation for Excellence in Education is pleased that the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act: refocuses the federal Charter Schools Program to promote high-quality charter schools at the state and local level; promotes state initiatives designed to improve charter school authorizing; allows states to use funds to start new charter schools as well as expand and replicate existing high-quality charter schools; authorizes a federal Charter Management Organization (CMO) grant program to support the

opening of high-quality charter schools nationwide; and upholds states' authority over most decisions about how to distribute charter school funds within their boundaries.

We are pleased that H.R. 10 was reported by the Committee on Education and the Workforce by a strong bipartisan vote and look forward to working with you on this bill as it moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Patricia Levesque
Chief Executive Officer
Foundation for Excellence in Education