



National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.

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March 31, 2014

The Honorable John Kline
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller:

On behalf of The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), which represents the state directors of special education in the states, D.C., the Department of Defense Education Agency, the federal territories and the Freely Associated States, I am writing in support of your new charter school legislation, the **Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act**. Thank you for introducing this important legislation.

NASDSE staff has been working with charter school authorizers and operators for more than 20 years to train them in their responsibilities regarding students with disabilities. We are pleased that this bill addresses our long-standing concerns about the under-enrollment of students with disabilities in charter schools by requiring charter school authorizers to monitor how their schools not only recruit and enroll students with disabilities, but also how the schools plan to retain these students once they enroll. The bill also includes new requirements that are designed to help charter schools plan for, and consider, how they will meet the needs of students with disabilities and how to help them thrive.

Charter schools are a well-established integral part of education in many communities across the country. We want to make certain that students with disabilities are welcome in these environments and we believe that your bipartisan bill is an excellent step towards meeting this goal. Thank you for your work to appropriately consider their needs.

Sincerely,

Theron (Bill) East, Jr., Ed.D.
Executive Director