



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

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April 2, 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 Congressmen Kline & Miller,

The Arc is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc encompasses all ages and all spectrums from autism, Down syndrome, Fragile X and various other developmental disabilities. With more than 140,000 members, 130,000 employees, and 52,000 volunteers, serving more than 1.5 million people with I/DD and family members through more than 700 state and local chapters nationwide, The Arc is on the front lines to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have the supports and services they need, are accepted in their communities, have a voice in policies that affect them, and have control of their own lives.

We are writing to express support for the House Bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Thank you for introducing this important legislation. 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 charter schools recruit and enroll students with disabilities and how the schools plan to retain these students once enrolled. The bill also includes new requirements that will help charter schools intentionally plan for and consider how they will meet the needs of students with disabilities and how to help them thrive.

The Arc appreciates this bipartisan effort and thanks you for your work to ensure that students with disabilities are appropriately served in charter schools.

Sincerely,

Maureen Fitzgerald
Director Disability Rights

Achieve with us.