

June 21, 2011

The Honorable Duncan Hunter  
Chair, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education  
223 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act (H.R. 2218)**

Dear Congressman Hunter:

California is home to 912 charter schools serving more than 365,000 students who are supported by parents, educators and communities; we project another 100 schools to open each year. The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) supports the foundational concepts of H.R. 2218, the *Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act*. The proposal – one of several planned in the comprehensive overhaul of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) – focuses on amending the charter schools section of the federal law.

We appreciate the acknowledgement that charter schools are providing innovative and viable options in public education, and a modern federal law must include policies that support, encourage and continue the increasing momentum of the charter schools movement. Moreover, a modern federal education law must recognize that both learning and teaching, including educational delivery and evaluation, must also evolve to reflect the advances of technology and information, not only in the power of data to drive effective pedagogy, but the myriad learning styles and needs of students.

We support the inclusion of incentives to support the continued development of high-quality charter models and improvements to the Charter Schools Program that will facilitate improved access to critical funds necessary to replicate and expand innovative and successful charter models able to serve more students currently attending underperforming schools. We appreciate the inclusion of timelines and recourse within H.R. 2218 to encourage and ensure the timely allocation of funds so that charter schools can have the needed infusion of moneys critical for start-up costs, facilities and expansion.

CCSA encourages the inclusion of rigorous levels of reporting and accountability of taxpayer dollars. It is only through high standards and high expectations focused on providing effective learning environments for students that we will close the achievement gap and help all students meet their highest potential.

As Congress further deliberates the reauthorization of the ESEA, inclusion of the charter model as an effective option to create learning environments where both students and teachers thrive, will be critical to ensuring an educational system that is rigorous and robust. CCSA awaits the

series of bills and welcomes the opportunity to provide additional comments on how the individual proposals not only influence the overarching goal of meaningful education reform, but how the amended policies promote and support the replication and expansion of innovative and successful charter school programs.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Bryant  
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs

cc: The Honorable John Kline, Chair, House Education and the Workforce Committee  
The Honorable George Miller, Ranking Member, House Education and the Workforce Committee  
The Honorable Dale Kildee, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education

via electronic transmittal: Members, House Education and the Workforce Committee