

NACSA Supports House Efforts to Strengthen Charter Schools

Contact: Courtney Leigh Beisel, 312.376.2316, courtneyb@qualitycharters.org

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) today announced its support for H.R. 5, the “Student Success Act,” introduced last week by House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline. The proposed legislation amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Among several provisions designed to improve the quality of the charter sector, NACSA noted that for the first time funds will be reserved within the federal Charter Schools Program to strengthen authorizing.

NACSA’s Vice President for Policy and Advocacy Alex Medler said that the organization will continue to work with members of Congress as they work to reauthorize ESEA. “We applaud the bipartisan efforts of Chairman Kline and Ranking Democratic Member George Miller to improve the quality of charter school authorizing.” Medler added, “The committee’s leadership and members such as Rep. Jared Polis have proven their commitment to making meaningful improvements to federal charter school policy.”

The proposal requires that states receiving federal grants under the charter school program work with charter schools and their authorizers to ensure that they are meeting their obligations to serve students with disabilities and English Language Learners. Grant recipients would also need to ensure that their charter school policies include a set of quality controls to protect the interest of schools, students and taxpayers including:

- written performance agreements between each charter school and its authorizer;
- annual independent financial audits of each school; and
- defined academic and operational performance standards based on a state’s accountability system.

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is committed to advancing excellence and accountability in the charter school sector and to increasing the number of high-quality charter schools across the nation. To accomplish this mission, NACSA works to improve the policies and practices of authorizers—the organizations designated to approve, monitor, renew, and, if necessary, close charter schools. NACSA provides training, consulting, and policy guidance to authorizers. It also advocates for laws and policies that raise the bar for excellence among authorizers and the schools they charter. In late 2012, NACSA launched its One Million Lives campaign to give one million more children the opportunity to attend a great school. Visit www.qualitycharters.org