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April 1, 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,

On behalf of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest professional organization of teachers, administrators, parents, and others concerned with the education of children with disabilities and/or gifts and talents I am writing to express support for the *Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act*.

CEC has long been concerned by the lack of access for students with disabilities to charter schools and the lack of oversight ensuring that students with disabilities in charter schools are appropriately served and receive all of their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). CEC is pleased to see several provisions within the *Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act* which would support increased access, service and accountability for these schools. Specifically, CEC is encouraged to see the following:

- A requirement that State entities describe in their applications how they will ensure charters can meet the educational needs of students with disabilities;
- An assurance that State entities will ensure authorizing agencies ensure charter schools are meeting the obligations of IDEA and section 504;
- An assurance that State entities will adequately monitor and help charter schools to recruit, enroll, and meet the needs of all students with disabilities; and
- The definition of High Quality Charter School specifically includes schools that have demonstrated success in significantly increasing academic achievement for all students, and specifically students with disabilities.

These provisions represent a step forward for education policy in our nation and an acknowledgement that charter schools must include and do more for students with disabilities. We commend this bi-partisan effort and look forward to working together to ensure that the needs of students with disabilities are adequately address in all federal education initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah A. Ziegler".

Deborah A. Ziegler  
Associate Executive Director  
Policy and Advocacy Services  
Council for Exceptional Children