



1101 15th Street, NW  
Suite 1010  
Washington, DC 20005  
T. 202.289.2700  
F. 202.289.4009  
[www.publiccharters.org](http://www.publiccharters.org)

June 21, 2011

Representative John Kline  
Chairman  
Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Duncan Hunter  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Early  
Childhood, Elementary and Secondary  
Education, Education and the  
Workforce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative George Miller  
Ranking Member  
Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Dale Kildee  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Early  
Childhood, Elementary and Secondary  
Education, Education and the  
Workforce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kline, Hunter, Miller and Kildee:

On behalf of more than 1.8 million children attending the 5,000 public charter schools across the country, the charter school community thanks you for your leadership in promoting more high-quality public charter school options for families and students nationwide. Your introduction of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, brings to House consideration a significant reauthorization proposal that has the support of the charter school movement. This legislation provides the much-needed resources to help high-achieving charter schools overcome the myriad of obstacles that prevent them from growing to serve thousands more students. It streamlines the programs to improve and bring efficiency to the grant process and focuses on quality practices so charter schools continue to be models of operational and academic success for the public education system.

Specifically, H.R. 2218 authorizes the expansion and replication of top-performing charter schools that address the needs of at-risk and underserved students. Charter schools will have the opportunity to continue practices proven to deliver results and expand innovations designed to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. The Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act will also drive the next generation of state policies around quality and accountability for all parties involved in the chartering process. The legislation's focus on improving and supporting the practices of charter authorizers will prompt states to recognize that there are many parties that affect the quality of public charter schools—and all should all be held accountable for their performance.

Moreover, H.R. 2218 will provide grants to create innovative credit enhancement initiatives that assist charter schools with addressing the cost of acquiring, constructing and renovating facilities. The legislation will also provide funds to help states establish or enhance and administer per-pupil facilities aid programs for public charter schools.

As Congressional efforts continue on the reauthorization of the Charter School Programs, your proposal represents a significant contribution to shaping the debate. It should be noted however that there are significant concerns with capping authorization levels and potentially stifling growth of the programs in the forthcoming years. We look forward to working with Congress to address this concern as the legislation moves through the process. For now, the public charter school movement stands ready to back this cause and to lend our support for H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act.

Sincerely,

American Federation for Children  
Arizona Charter Schools Association  
Aspire Public Schools  
Charter School Lenders Coalition  
Democracy Builders  
Democracy Prep Public Schools  
Democrats for Education Reform  
Green Dot Public Schools  
IDEA Public Schools  
K12. Inc.  
Mastery Charter Schools Network  
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools  
NewSchools Venture Fund  
Success Charter Network  
Texas Charter School Association  
Uncommon Schools

cc: U.S. Secretary Arne Duncan  
Members of the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee  
Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions