



September 7, 2011

Chairman David Dreier
U.S. House of Representatives
H-312 the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Louise M. Slaughter
1627 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dreier and Ranking Member Slaughter:

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS) would like to extend its support for H.R. 2218: Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. This legislation dramatically improves the three programs that help charter schools overcome state and local inequities as they work to provide more families with public school options.

We are also supportive of Congressman Jared Polis' (CO-2) amendments that he submitted for H.R. 2218. The first amendment prioritizes grants for states that allow charter schools to be their own local education agency. This status for charter schools is particularly important to level the playing field and ensure charters may access the funds and resources equal to traditional school districts. The second amendment that Mr. Polis is offering gives priority to states that allow for multiple authorizers. In some cases, the only authorizer of charter schools is a local education agency, and this can hamstring the approval process of new charter schools. The NAPCS believes that multiple authorizers create a fair and balanced environment for opening innovative public charter schools.

We look forward to seeing this important legislation pass the House of Representatives and move onto the Senate so more children can have access to high-quality public education options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C. Groff", written over a circular scribble.

Peter C. Groff
President/CEO

Cc: Chairman John Kline
Ranking Member George Miller
Representative Jared Polis