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September 8, 2011

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of nearly 2 million children attending more than 5,000 public charter schools across the country, we applaud you on your successful efforts to bring H.R. 2218, Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, to the House Floor for a vote. This legislation will improve the core federal charter school programs that are imperative in helping charter schools overcome state and local inequities as they work to provide more families with high-quality public school options.

We urge you to reject the amendment offered by Representative Steve King (R-IA). Rep. King's amendment would strike a key provision that defines a high-quality charter school as one that is showing achievement gains for students from historically disadvantaged groups, including low-income and minority students, students with disabilities, and students who are non-native English speakers. As you well know, demonstrating student achievement for all children is imperative for a successful accountability system and one that we fully support.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
50CAN: The 50 State Campaign for Achievement Now
Center for American Progress Action Fund
Children's Defense Fund
DC Association of Chartered Public Schools
Democrats for Education Reform
Education Equality Project
Florida Charter School Alliance
Idaho Charter School Network
KIPP
Massachusetts Charter Public School Association
National Council of LaRaza
National Disability Rights Network
NewSchools Venture Fund
Texas Charter School Association
Wyoming Association of Public Charter Schools

Cc: Chairman John Kline
Ranking Member George Miller

