

**HELPING DISTRICT STUDENTS ACHIEVE SUCCESS:
REVIVING THE D C OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Ms. Betty J. Fenwick- North Testimony
The Preparatory School of the District of Columbia**

Hello, a distinguished member of the committee, my name is Betty J. Fenwick- North and I am the Founder of the Preparatory School of the District of Columbia.

The Preparatory School of the District of Columbia, Inc. licensed, non-profit, private educational institution. We opened our doors in 1984 as a Child Development Center, and over the last 26 years as a result of the needs of our parents and students, have expanded to where now we educate students up to the tenth grade.

Our mission is to give our students the academic foundation that will allow them to be successful in life, in a safe, caring and structured environment that utilizes small class size learning. We provide the intimate attention that a lot of today's youth require in order to reach the educational aptitude necessary for success. Our wonderful staff is able to adapt to each student's unique cognitive learning style while placing emphasis on analyzing, reading, language articulation, and writing. In addition to academics, it is the aim of The Preparatory School of DC to assist with character building, developing the ability to persevere, integrity, and respect for themselves and their community.

The Preparatory School of DC is a "family first" school. We strive to instill good family values in each of our students. A majority of our students come from low income large families. A number of our families have multiple children close who are school age and would not have the opportunity to

receive an educational from a private school if it were not for the Opportunity Scholarship Program. The Opportunity Scholarship Program has made it possible for many low income families to have more options in achieving a quality education. Over 150 students have been able to attend the Preparatory School of DC solely because of the Opportunity Scholarship Program and opportunity that has provided a sound and enriching educational experience. Students who attend The Preparatory School of DC range from those taking AP course level work; to the students that have been diagnose with learning disabilities, as well as those with documented disciplinary problems that have involved the courts. And as many parents if they were able to testify would tell you and we continually hear first hand; if it were not for the Opportunity Scholarship Program many of these students would not have been able to experience and discover that they are not just a number or a statistic; they are individuals with needs that can and will be met.

Today's children are our future, let us help you guide them, and prepare them for the next level. The more options we provide these students and their families the better choices they can make for their situations and the better choices they make the better their chances of success.

In closing I would like to say that I believe The Opportunity Scholarship has open doors for parents to have choices for their children education; has empowered parents without the necessary financial resources to be more involved and influential in the children's education; and, the Opportunity Scholarship has provided student access and exposure to experiences and an academic culture that private religious and secular schools offer.

MS. BETTY J. FENWICK-NORTH

THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BIO

Ms. Betty J. Fenwick-North was born and raised in Southern Maryland. She was educated in both catholic schools and the public schools. She graduated from Laplata High School in Southern Maryland. After receiving her Bachelor Degree in Science, from Johnson C Smith College, in North Carolina, she furthered her education and received her Master Degree at the National Louis University in Washington, DC.

Armed with the dissatisfaction with how her only child was being educated in the DC public schools system and the burning desire to rescue other children, she made it her point to put her vision into existence. Opening her first daycare in the basement of her home, she enrolled children from her neighborhood, children of family members, and children of friends. Ms. North's goal was to provide her students with a structured, nurturing, and safe learning environment.

Due to the influx in the day care's enrollment, Ms. North with the help of her dedicated staff and parents expanded her child care services. Soon the school had reached it capacity, which motivated Ms. North to move into her first building in 1984, in which she named "The Preparatory School for Early Learning".

In 1992, Ms. North decided to take The Preparatory School of Early Learning's approach and incorporate it into a great learning experience for school age children. That is how the Preparatory School of the District of Columbia was founded. The parents where so impressed with the outcomes of their children's learning experience and the small class size approach, that they persuaded Ms. North to expand the school grades to not only Middle School, but now High School also. As of today, the school levels are from infancy to the 10th grade.

Ms. North's passion, dedication, and perseverance for the students of The Preparatory Schools cannot be measured. She has been committed to the success of all her students. The Preparatory School of the District of Columbia has provided a superb educational foundation for a number of the District's youth. Ninety five percent of the school's alumni have graduated from the metropolitan area top academic high schools and go on to continue their educational career's at some of the most prestigious Colleges and Universities in United States.

Ms. Betty J. Fenwick-North has not only been on the Administrative aspect of The Preparatory School of DC, but also has been the first and second grade teacher since the school opened its doors to school age children. She has received the "Whose Who" Business Women Award, and also serves as the Vice President of the District of Columbia's School Age Care Program. Currently, Ms. North has joined forces with; DC Public Schools, DC Children & Youth Investment Corporation, Greater Washington Boys and Girls Club, Office of Partnership and Grants, The Foundation Center, Dept. of Mental Health "Capital CARES", Washington Urban League , Child and Family Service, Dept. of Human Services, Dept. of Employment Services, DC Parks and Recreation, Dept of Interior Community Outreach Office, Operation HOPE "Banking on Our Future" (BOOF), and Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) to assist with educational foundation of The Preparatory School of the District of Columbia's students.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Witness Disclosure Requirement - "Truth in Testimony"
Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2(g)(5)

Name: Betty North Preparatory School of DC

1. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) you have received since October 1, 2008. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

OPportunity Scholarship Program
Washington Scholarship Program - 2008 - \$88,000.00
Washington Scholarship Program - 2009 - \$170,000.00

2. Please list any entity you are testifying on behalf of and briefly describe your relationship with these entities.

DC OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Provides the Scholarships.

3. Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) received since October 1, 2008, by the entity(ies) you listed above. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

Opportunity Scholarship Program

Children and Youth Investment trust Corp. -
2010 - \$368,380.00

I certify that the above information is true and correct.

Signature:

Date: 2/25/11