

**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.