



1250 Taylor St. NW
Washington, DC 20011
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October 21, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Rokita
Chairman Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Support for H.R 10, Reauthorization of the SOAR Act

Dear Speaker Boehner, Chairman Chaffetz, Chairman Kline and Chairman Rokita:

On behalf of Bridges Public Charter School in Washington, DC, we write to thank you for your leadership for H.R. 10, the reauthorization of the SOAR Act, and to express our strong support for the proposal.

More than 85,000 students attend District of Columbia Public Schools and Public Charter Schools. Enrollment continues to climb steadily after enduring four decades of decline. The improving quality of the educational options we offer families in the District is a primary reason for this growth. The SOAR Act provides valuable resources for District's children, resources that have supported these improvements.

Bridges Public Charter School educates 332 Pre-K to 3rd grade students, 30% of whom are special needs students. Specifically, the SOAR Act has provided our school with grants supporting programs in academic quality and early-childhood education. In general, the Act has been instrumental in fueling the quality and resultant growth of DC public charter schools that enroll nearly 50% of DC public education students.

We encourage you to do everything you can to continue the strong support of school choice in the District of Columbia through the SOAR program. Thank you for all you do on behalf of DC students and families. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Olivia Smith".

Olivia Smith
Founder/Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Friend".

Gary Friend
Chief Operating Officer