

October 16, 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

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

On behalf of DC Scholars, I am writing to thank you for your leadership for H.R. 10, the reauthorization of the SOAR Act, and to express support for the proposal.

There are over 85,000 students attending District of Columbia Public Schools and D.C. charter schools. These numbers have been climbing 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 has provided valuable resources for these children, resources which have supported these improvements.

Scholar Academies transforms low-performing schools so that every child has the knowledge and character to pursue the path to college and opportunities beyond. We create schools that not only deliver rigorous instruction, but also serve as communities of joy where our students thrive. We engage our families and the surrounding community so our students learn from excellent leaders and teachers, experience a strong culture and receive effective instruction.

As members of the Scholar Academies' network of high-performing charter schools, DC Scholars currently serves 1,000 students in Preschool through 6th at DC Scholars Stanton Elementary School and DC Scholars Public Charter School. DC Scholars Stanton opened in 2010 through a DC Public School (DCPS) initiative designed to turnaround the bottom 5% of schools. Prior to Scholar Academies' involvement, Stanton was the District's second lowest performing elementary school. DC Scholars Stanton was the first DCPS school to move out of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) priority status as a result of continued growth. Today, Stanton provides students in Ward 8 with the foundation of life skills required to become productive members of their community.

DC Scholars Public Charter School is a new-start public charter school in DC's Ward 7 providing better education options for students and serving as a proof point for what is possible in education. Students enter DCSPCS from across Washington, DC (primarily Wards 7 and 8) an average of two years behind grade level.

Thank you for your support for DC students and families. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Carlie Fisherow
Executive Director – DC Scholars



Lars Beck
CEO – Scholar Academies