



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 AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation and AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School I 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 D.C. charter schools. Enrollment is 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 provides valuable resources for these children, resources that have supported these improvements.

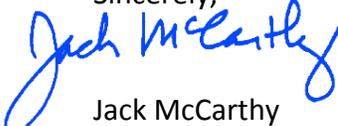
AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School educates 850 three and four year old children, mostly at risk from some of the most challenging circumstances in the District of Columbia.

Over the past 10 years, the SOAR Act has provided our school with credit enhancement and city build incentive grants to help us secure facilities financing for three of our site that provide quality early learning for 310 children. Other grants from the SOAR program have provided us with the ability to share our evidence based comprehensive preschool instructional model with other public schools.

The SOAR program has provided student that receive Opportunity Scholarships with the chance to attend quality religious and independent schools that their families could never, otherwise, afford.

It has been instrumental in fueling the growth and quality of DC public charter schools that enroll nearly 50% of DC public education students. I 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 your support for DC students and families. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Jack McCarthy
President and CEO