

October 20, 2015

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives,

We are a large and diverse number of parents of children attending various schools within the District of Columbia. We write to urge your support of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act (SOAR) (H.R. 10).

The SOAR Act is bipartisan legislation which ensures our rights as parents to choose the best public, charter or private school for our children. It not only provides up to \$20 million for Opportunity Scholarships for low-income families to attend private schools, but also authorizes an additional \$40 million per year for public and charter schools in the District of Columbia. This three-sector initiative provides opportunities for all our children to succeed!

Nearly 6,200 children from very low-income families in the city have attended private schools through the Opportunity Scholarship Program over the past eleven years - 88% coming from areas zoned for schools in need of improvement and 97% African-American or Hispanic. These students graduate at rates 30 points higher than the city's public schools and have a near 90 percent college enrollment rate. These are proven results!

The SOAR Act is an example of what works in education. When we can choose the best public, charter, or private school for our children, there are not only more opportunities to engage in their education, but also for them to achieve greater academic excellence. These outcomes strengthen the city's education system as a whole.

We believe that maintaining and fully funding all educational options are critically important for the city's families, especially low-income families served by the Opportunity Scholarship Program. No child should be denied a safe, quality education because of their family income or zip code.

We therefore urge you to support the swift passage of the SOAR Act.

cc: Mayor Muriel Bowser
Council of the District of Columbia

Sincerely,

Ms. Nichelle Cluff

Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ikoli

Ms. Stephanie Montgomery

Ms. Mary Montgomery

Ms. Nina Harris

Ms. Eboni Purvis

Ms. Juliette Randolph

Ms. Ashley Adams

Ms. Naa Borle Sakeyfi

Mrs. Mariama Bah

Ms. Mia Wilson

Mrs. Sherri Calhoun

Ms. Lamonica Jeffrey

Mr. Darrell Cousar

Mr. James Calhoun

Mr. Andrew Cyr

Ms. Kayann McCalla

Mrs. Aldrina Cabrera

Ms. Kiana Wright

Ms. Albertine Cole

Ms. Dianna Coley

Ms. Tonya Carter

Ms. Giovanna Grayson

Ms. Luciana Udeozor

Ms. Andrea Davis

Mrs. Obiagel nuel-Ejiofor

Mr. Emmanuel Ejiofor

Mr. Rogers Ferguson

Mr. Girma Mihretu

Ms. Molita Gaskins

Ms. Latoya Myers

Ms. Djenane Jeanty

Ms. Keona Lewis

Mrs. Nicole Knott

Mr. Rudy Knott

Mr. Hanna Boku

Mr. Rashawn McCain

Ms. Ann Mmayie

Ms. Rita Pineda

Mr. Okechukwu Mbarah

Mr. Carlings McPhail

Ms. Ann Meruh

Ms. Shantel Powell-Morgan

Mrs. Marguerita Ramos

Mrs. Muanza Sangamay

Ms. Felicia Thomas

Ms. Sydney Williams

Ms. Caren Kirkland

Mrs. Temitope Tayo

Mr. Anthony Ugorji

Ms. Natasha Tutt

Ms. Dina Bayou

Ms. Natasha Tutt

Mr. Calvin Wright

Mrs. Julia Ugorji

Mrs. Chinwe Mbarah

Mr. Souleymane Bah

Julie McLaughlin

Sheila Martinez

Susan Morais

Joan Sapienza

Eddie Donahue

Joseph Yohe

Carter Jefferson

Vincent Browning

Jonathan Bender

Peter Frantz

Ellen Graper

Elizabeth LeBras

Kiandra Willis

Robert McKeon

Marcela Price Souaya

Stephen Lennon

Aleasa Chiles-Feggins

Sally Leakamariam

Juleanna Glover

Christopher Reiter

Cristina Khalaf

Tom Shea

Sean Vincent

Karen Brennan

Ceci Smith

Adrienne Vincent

Pedro Smith

Donna Gibson

Colleen Cavanagh

Chris Long

Aleasa Chiles-Feggins

Mariela Alardon-Yohe

Jennifer Browning

Philippa Bender

Melanie Jefferson

Veronica Nyhan Jones

Michael Truscott

Eavan O'Halloran

Sakinah Dupree

Morris Redd

Ron Josey

Susana Ramos-Izquierdo

Aimee Donahue

Marisse Rovira

Linda Girardi

Sharlene Mentor

Lisa Richa

James McLaughlin

Glenda Morales

Samuel Parker III

Clarence Jones

Leyla Y. Teos

Mavian Nouget

Kip Ross

Beatriz Lopez

Charles Malloy

Steve Trynosky

Carlos Aquino

Yanira Reyes

Nelly Romero

Sandra Huerta

Eboni Curry

Amanda Lawrence

Laura Hernandez

Mogus Meles

Danielle Aguirre

Julie Corsig

Andy Corsig

Alan Joaquin

Stephen Connors

Colton Campbell

Amy Dean

Flavio Cumpiano

John Menditto

Michelle Theic

Liza Figueroa

Shenelle Henry

Glenda Urquilla

Kelly Brown

Maria Granados

Catie Malloy

Ingrid Mejia

Jill Trynosky

Marlene Aquino

Roselia Gonzalez

Nubia Fasil

Jessica Martinez

Beatriz Jansen

Juan Carlos Acajabon Mendez

Betiel Zekarias

Maria Torres

Carrie Hillegass

Mike Hillegass

Barbara Richitt

Victoria Connors

Kiandra Willis

Marilyn Campbell

Bob Dean

Felice Goodwin

Shanti Stanton

Molly Robert

Jen MacLennan

Michael Grady

Sharon Blume

Brendan O'Brien

Kenia Reyes

Salvador Hernandez

Rob Grabarz

Bentley Storm

Molly Bruno

Jennifer Leonard

Geoff Morrell

Christy Reap

Genet Demisse

Javier Aguirre

Neil McGrail

Kai Schmitz

Jimmy Kemp

Kathy Hagerup

Stephanie McGovern

Yohannes Z . Hadgu

Thomas Fitton

Melinda Johnson

Theresa Nahazar

Ann McAllister

Dan Goodwin

Daphne de Souza

Darren MacLennan

Alexandra Walsh

Andrew Blume

Greg Talbot

Darren Jansen

Susan Tanis

Sarah Grabarz

Ashley Storm

Jaclyn Madden

Barton Leonard

Ann Morrell

Pat Reap

Jana Patterson

Barbara Swaboda

Stephanie McGrail

Adriana Schmitz

Susan Kemp

Brian Crowley

John McGovern

Michael Scanlon

Kelly Fitton

Bassam Khalaf

John Nahazar

John McAllister

Marc Sozio

Tyson Redpath

Laverne Lightbourn

Nick Milano

Trisha Corcoran

Eleanor Hopkins

Liza Lindenberg

Katie Krantz

John Morrissey

Joe Patterson

Chima Oluigbo

Sonia Cruz

Mercedes Rubio

Eddie Donahue

Gilbert Richa

Nick Saunders

Stephen Sexton

Thomas Faust

Meg Molloy

Michelle Wolf

Bruce Cormier

Ryan Angier

Jen Rowan

Lauren Buckley

Collin Cullen

Mary Santiviago

Kelly Sozio

Renee Redpath

Kevin Madden

Susan Milano

Joe Corcoran

Mary Glaser McCahan

Kate McAuliffe

Meg Knight

Ann Morrissey

Courtney Knowles

Nnenna Oluigbo

Robert Cruz-Reyes

Lydia Dolan

Lauren Lennon

Tom Knight

Joe Beemsterboer

Sarah Sexton

Larisa Faust

Jim Molloy

Kristin Lindquist

Sarah Cormier

Katreena Vigil Pineda

Mike Rowan

Mark Buckley

Brenda Cullen

Sergio Santiviago

Gary Fabiano
Rene McGuffin
Jorge Costa
Meghan Deerin
Kelly Stanton
Art Frye
John McGill
Mike Bruno
Matt Ritz
Margaret Bond
Billy MacArtee
Anthony Puglisi
Monica Micklos
Tim Yost
Ray Powers
Chris Dolan
Darrell Clark
Chris Connolly
Joni Veith
Courtney Taylor
Athena Meyers
Joshua Corless
Allison Sheedy
Robin Barth
Sam Depoy
Jung Kang

Connie Fabiano
David McGuffin
Michelle Costa
JB Deerin
Mike Stanton
Barbara Frye
Stephanie McGill
Anne Zorc
Erin Ritz
Chris Delaney
Elena MacArtee
Laura Puglisi
Jeff Micklos
Liz Yost
Tom Hohman
Desiree Gabbidon
Yves Clark
Michelle Connolly
Tom Veith
Jay Taylor
Greg Meyers
Shannon Corless
Stefan Hagerup
Woo Lee
Marty Depoy
Stephanie O'Leary

Susan O'Keefe

Luwam Berhane

Patti Exposito

Michael Henry

Dan Hickey

Carmen Burducea

Joseph Finnegan

Michael Hyatte

Peter Komives

Eric Stogoski

Fred Dombo

Dave Madden

Justin Glasgow

Bernardo Ahlborn

Mark Emery

Doug Skorny

Stephen Grimberg

Brendan Delaney

John DiMartino

Jeffrey MacKinnon

Hirut Teklu

Erika Lopez-Padilla

Michelle Marshall

Abebe Kebede

SHayla Mack

Tesfaye Bune

Michael O'Keefe

Daniel McCahan

Lorenzo Exposito

Sarah Henry

Stephanie Hickey

Radu Burducea

Elizabeth Finnegan

Theresa Hyatte

Irina Komives

Julia Stogoski

Michelle Dombo

Lisa Madden

Megan Glasgow

Tatiana Ahlborn

Celina Emery

Mary Skorny

Christina Grimberg

Celine Delaney

Ginny Treanor

Gail MacKinnon

Mekuria Gebremichael Bint

Renee Lopez-Padilla

Emebet Worku

Carlotte Crawford

Solomon Meshesha

Etsegent Demissie

Sri Winarti

Denisha Dempster

Demssie Gebremedhin

Alembanchi Taye

Tezita Woldegebriel

Tesfaye Abebu Bune

Magie Maling

Jessica Cabrera

LaShawn Debnam

Barbara Destry

Jaanai Johnson

Hewan Abera

Siddiq Anderson

Markina Bailey

Odessa Brown

Rosa Caiza Maldonado

Sharon Coffey

Dianna Coley

Felicia Dyson

Ruth Fekadu

Dana Grinage

Sandra Hall

Lakia Harris

Shirlene Jackson

Francine Johnson

Nicole Johnson

Rajeeyah Burks

Mohamad Nugroho

Woinishet Gelete

Johnny Kassa

Cynthia Downes

Genet Tirkssso

Wosen Admasu

Sara Caceres

Johanna Rizo Martinez

Nikita Pray

Estela Arellano

Sagrario Agaton

Mary Addae

Ruth Barnwell

Meka Burch

Sherri Calhoun

Catrice Coleman

Barbara Cunningham

Lashawn Durant

Moanick Fenner

Michelle Glover

Carmen Hall-Ali

Deborah Jackson

Darlene Johnson

Denise Johnson

Wendy Jones

Michael Jones

Alfreda Judd

Lynetta McClam

Adrienne Miles

Claudia Moreno

Pauline Murray

Brigitta Nyahn

Nakia Poindexter

Erin Skinner

Felicia Thomas

Sharon Waller

Lanita Wood

Ms. Myeshia Johnson

Ms. Venete Eason

Ms. Kanita Washington

Mrs. Barbara Graham

Sophie Alozie

Blanca Magarin

Jeanine Henderson-Lebbie

William Walker, IV

Tigistu Zewdie

Sydonie Fisher

William James

Akwilina Perry

Monalisa Reno

Zakia Williams

Shonta Jones

Pamela Matthews

Cecilia Mensah

Tonya Moore

Priscilla Moultrie

Carolina Novoa

Deborah M. Parker

Michelle Roberts

Sandra Stackhouse

Leslie Void

Varnell Washington

Ms. Kitty Dawson

Ms. Mia Butler

Ms. Tiana Robinson

Mrs. Jill Gelman

Nejat Teman

Nathaniel Garbla

Tefaye Tamire

Patrice Aubrey

Fatmatta Kamara

Stephon Knox

Dwishnicka Randolph

Nicole Wood

Erica Iweanoge

Amanda Brown-Parks

James Parker

Teata Sanders	Ginger Beverly
Samora St. Firmin	Tonya Wright
Dionne Clemons	Brandon Winder
Vernessa Perry	Antilecia O’Neal
Donald Matthews	Uanna Ferguson
Tashana Ellis	Aster Robi
Donita Adams	Bernadette Aniekwe
Caroline Beruchan	Patrice Davis
Steven Garrison	Ms. Maria del Carmen Reyes
Ms. Holly Destry	Ms. Ingrid Lucas
Ms. Victoria Heimbold	Ms. Stephanie Goodloe
Mr. Solomon Weldeghebriel	Mrs. Helen Andemariam
Ms. Jamil Raspberry	Michael Thomasian
Anne Hedian	Neslyn Moore
Atchoi Osekre-Bond	Judy Steele
Margie Bacon	Kathleen Downey
Jill Wright	Judith Horne
Cathy Falk	Niamh O’Mahoney
Chanda Foreman	Arleen Hall
Colleen Scheidel	Bobby Rienzo
Kenny Stack	Teresa Fitzgerald
Juliette Randolph	LaShawne Thomas
Barbara Andercheck	Sarah Kane
Indra Thomas	Frank Washington
Dog Harvey	Mary Ann Welter
Darah Tracy	Shawn Hunter

Leslie Sherrill

Donise Yeager

Keyana Caroline

Sandra Gray

Latasha Monnique Jones Ward

Anthony Speight

Deborah B. Jones

Kim Atwater

Alvena P. Toland

Loretta Henry

Marilyn Sharpe

Davon Wilson

Sherry Bryant

Elroy Black

Lisa Newman

Shakia Henderson

Octavia Powell

Anita M. Harris

Krestin Clay

Laneka Brakett

Ana Acedo-Garcia

Garry Jones

John Wallace

Nakeisha Thompson

Donald Lampkins

Renard Hawkins

Tammy Williams

Tynisha Dunn

Jovanna Bailey

Latasha Johon

Bobby Perry

Shalita Knight

Keyana Howard

Kenneth Meredith

Calep Epps

Ty'ron Byers

Chase Blakney

Curtis Watts

Kishara Odom

Jeffrey Corry

Antonia Payne

Denise L. Lowery

Stephanie Payner

Tanya Lambright

Elaine E. Harris

Elbert Laker

Ryan Storr

Sylvester Bynum

Lavelle Lamb

Dominique Johnson

Paulette Willims

Martasha Fermine

Oyhani Williams

Nasir McKeiver

Kenneth Wood

Neta Vaught

Mary Joyner

Michelle L. McIntyre

Kaitlin Gallagher

Will E. Henderson

Jeanette Hubbard

Ontavia Lynch

Tasha McKenzie

James R. Wills, Jr.