

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 781

Congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER (for himself, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. McKEON, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. KIND, and Mr. CASE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Congratulating charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes.

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge our students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity that are responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students and promoting the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas over 3,600 charter schools are now operating in 40 States and the District of Columbia serving more than 1 million students;

Whereas over the last 12 years, Congress has provided nearly \$1,775,000,000 in support to the charter school movement through facilities financing assistance and grants for planning, startup, implementation, and dissemination;

Whereas charter schools improve their students' achievement and stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the same manner as traditional public schools, and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools give parents new freedom to choose their public school, routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities;

Whereas nearly 56 percent of charter schools report having a waiting list, and the total number of students on all such waiting lists is enough to fill over 1,100 average-sized charter schools;

Whereas charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States; and

Whereas the seventh annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through 6, 2006, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives acknowledges
3 and commends charter schools and their students,
4 parents, teachers, and administrators across the
5 United States for their ongoing contributions to edu-
6 cation and improving and strengthening our public
7 school system;

8 (2) the House of Representatives supports the
9 seventh annual National Charter Schools Week; and

10 (3) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
11 tives that the President should issue a proclamation
12 calling on the people of the United States to conduct
13 appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to
14 demonstrate support for charter schools during this

1 weeklong celebration in communities throughout the
2 United States.

