

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 386

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 1, 2002

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting a National Charter Schools Week, and for other
purposes.

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a
designated public body and operating on the principles of
accountability, parental involvement, choice, and auton-
omy;

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 37 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas 37 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will have received substantial assistance from the Federal Government by the end of the current fiscal year for planning, startup, and implementation of charter schools since their authorization in 1994 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.);

Whereas 34 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are serving over 580,000 students in more than 2,431 charter schools during the 2001–2002 school year;

Whereas charter schools can be vehicles for improving student achievement for students who attend them, for stimulating change and improvement in all public schools, and for benefiting all public school students;

Whereas charter schools must meet the same Federal student achievement accountability requirements as all public schools, and often set higher and additional goals, to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools assess and evaluate students annually and often even more frequently, and charter school student achievement is directly linked to charter school existence;

Whereas charter schools give parents new freedom to choose their public school, charter schools routinely measure pa-

rental approval, and charter schools must prove their ongoing and increasing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities;

Whereas two-thirds of charter schools report having a waiting list, the average size of such a waiting list is nearly one-half of the school's enrollment, and the total number of students on all such waiting lists is enough to fill another 1,000 average-sized charter schools;

Whereas students in charter schools nationwide have similar demographic characteristics as students in all public schools;

Whereas charter schools in many States serve significant numbers of students from families with lower income, minority students, and students with disabilities, and in a majority of charter schools, almost half the students are considered at risk or are former dropouts;

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

Whereas charter schools are laboratories of reform and serve as models of how to educate children as effectively as possible: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the Congress honors the 10th anniversary
4 of the opening of the Nation's first charter school;

5 (2) the Congress acknowledges and commends
6 the charter school movement and charter schools,

1 teachers, parents, and students across the Nation
2 for their ongoing contributions to education and im-
3 proving and strengthening the Nation's public school
4 system;

5 (3) the Congress supports the goals of National
6 Charter Schools Week, an event sponsored by char-
7 ter schools and charter school organizations across
8 the Nation and established to recognize the signifi-
9 cant impacts, achievements, and innovations of the
10 Nation's charter schools; and

11 (4) it is the sense of the Congress that the
12 President should issue a proclamation calling on the
13 people of the United States to conduct appropriate
14 programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate
15 support for charter schools in communities through-
16 out the Nation.

Passed the House of Representatives April 30, 2002.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.